

Hafa Adai!

Arrivals increased 51% last January. **PAGE 5**

MCS earns College Board AP award for 2nd year in a row. **PAGE 10**

75¢

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'TALAYA' FISHING

Series of photos shows a fisherman demonstrating how to catch fish using *talaya* or a cast net or throw net at a beach in Garapan. Many locals can be seen walking the stretch of beach, with *talaya* wrapped in their arms and ready to be tossed over a school of fish.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CPA revenue loss climbs to \$3.9M

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

From an initial estimated revenue loss of \$2.2 million, the Commonwealth Ports Authority now expects to post a loss of \$3.9 million—an increase of \$1.7 million—following the flight suspension of four airlines earlier this month.

According to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the CPA airport and financial committees reported an overall projected loss of \$3.9 mil-

lion, including revenue loss from flights and others. Specifically, revenue loss from the four China flights was at an

See CPA on Page 4

Torres to HK Express: Repatriate stranded travelers ASAP

» Failure to do so may result in revocation of HKE's future charter flights

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wrote the mother company of Hong Kong Express Airways yesterday to express grave concern over the plight of 130 travelers who have been left stranded in the CNMI

after HK Express suspended flights to and from the CNMI last Feb. 6 due to the novel coronavirus outbreak in China.

Torres strongly urged Hong Kong-based Nicolas Wong, airport and cargo services general manager of

See TORRES on Page 4

CPA reaches out to HK Express

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has been working on helping the 130 tourists who were left behind following the abrupt suspension of Hong Kong Express

flights earlier this month.

During a CPA board committee meeting yesterday at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting classroom in Kolberville, board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said that, soon after finding out that there are tourists stranded on

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Today, as a treat for Valentine's Day, Saipan will get to experience Chifan cuisine.

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ASIA

The number of new cases of the coronavirus in China dropped for a second straight day.

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SCIENCE & TECH

A new earthquake early-warning app for smartphones has been released.

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Local

‘NMI only US jurisdiction that taxes aircraft parts’

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI remains the only jurisdiction within the United States that imposes tariffs on aircraft parts through the assessment of beautification taxes, according to Star Marianas Air president Shaun R. Christian.

Christian also stated that the Commonwealth Ports Authority has not made them aware of any incentive program available to the company and continues to charge the maximum passenger facility charges allowable.

Christian said the fuel tax incentive is only applicable to international flights and jet fuel, not interisland flights and Aviation Gas.

The tariff and the lack of an incentive program were the issues that Christian brought up in response to Sen. Teresita A. Santos’ (Ind-Rota) appeal to Star Marianas Air to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Rota by lowering its airfare during these difficult financial times.

Santos recently asked Christian in a letter to help the people of Rota because of the CNMI’s current financial state

and the imminent austerity and budget cuts.

She told Christian that austerity measures, coupled with the high cost of living on Rota, will financially cripple many families, but most especially their interisland medical referral patients seeking medical attention that is unavailable on the island.

The senator cited that the CPA has adopted an incentive program for airlines that she hopes Star Marianas Air can avail of.

In his reply to the senator’s appeal, Christian said Star Marianas Air will continue to do its best to provide sustainable flight services to Rota.

He said the underlying causes for the austerity measures taken by the government are also having an extreme impact on the profitability of private companies, brought about by the significant loss of visitors to the CNMI.

“STAR is not immune to the loss of passengers and resulting revenue reduction and we are taking every measure we can to reduce costs in order to remain in operation and sustain our current service and prices,” Christian said.

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Weeklong trip teaches students about Japan



Students participating in the Saipan Mayor's Office Student Cultural Exchange Program and the Saipan Mayor's Office representatives pose with Shiga governor Taizo Mikazuki, third from left front row, and the high priest of Sanpoen Kansho Kayaki, fourth from left front row, in Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

Four representatives of the Saipan Mayors' Office, along with 10 students from both public and private schools, arrived on Saipan last Feb. 11 from a weeklong trip in Japan, where they learned more about the Japanese culture, customs, language, and daily life, as part of the Saipan Mayor's Office Student Cultural Exchange Program.

According to the student exchange program coordinator Yuki Kishimoto, the 10 students were from Grace Christian Academy, Mount Carmel School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, and Dandan Middle School.

"We tried to pick students from different schools so that each student will represent each school [on Saipan] and when they get back, they can share his/her experience with their classmates and possibly encourage others," said Saipan Mayor's Office special assistant Henry Hofschneider.

He said this exchange program—which the Saipan Mayor's Office offers every year—is "very beneficial" because it's an eye-opener for many students. In one case, a student of Japanese ancestry who was born and raised on Saipan said the program allowed him to experience firsthand an aspect of the Japanese culture, way of life, and inter-

action with families.

The students also got a chance to meet with Kyoto vice governor Suichi Yamauchi, Kyoto vice mayor Shoichiro Suzuki, Shiga Gov. Taizo Mikazuki, Nagano Mayor Hisao Kato, Nagano's Superintendent of Education Ryuichi Harayama, Joyama Elementary School principal Hideaki Shimizu, and high priest Kansho Kayaki.

Hofschneider, Kishimoto, representatives of the Saipan Mayor's Office, and the students spent three nights in Kyoto where they visited the governor and mayor's office in Kyoto, Kyoto Zoo, Toei Uzumasa Kyoto Studio Park, Izutsu Yatsushashi Pastry Shop, and shopped at Aeon Mall.

The Sanpoen group also hosted a welcome party for them at the Otsu Municipal Culture Hall before they left Kyoto.

According to Kishimoto, the last three days of their trip were spent in Nagano. The students stayed with their assigned host families. We visited Joyama Elementary School, Zenkoji Temple, and Nagano Mayor's Office. Joyama Elementary School had hosted a welcome party for us at Shinanoji Hotel in Nagano.



Students participating in the Saipan Mayor's Office Student Cultural Exchange Program and the Saipan Mayor's Office representatives pose with Nagano Mayor Hisao Kato, fourth from left front row, in Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Attao gets Senate's nod as NMTI board member

The Senate confirmed early this week the appointment of Catherine M. Attao to serve as a member of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board of trustees.

Attao received the unanimous nod of senators after the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations recommended her confirmation.

The committee, chaired by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Saipan), received four written and seven oral testimonies in support of Attao. No one opposed.

The committee said that, based on the overall assessment of Attao's credentials, experiences, testimonies, and her goals for the department, it is convinced that she has the qualifications and leadership skills necessary to serve as member of the NMTI board.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios appointed Attao last Dec. 3 to the board.

The committee conducted a public hearing to receive testimonies on the appointment last Jan. 14.

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes M. McPhetres, who was among those who supported Attao's appointment, said that Attao is a huge asset to NMTI and the community as a whole.

McPhetres said she supports At-

tao's nomination based on her extensive work experience as a manager and supervisor in both the private and public sectors, coupled with her extensive experience as an educator both in and out of the classroom.

Attao is currently the vice president of corporate affairs and human resources of TanHoldings.

Office of Planning and Development deputy director Christopher A. Concepcion said Attao has extensive

experience in the field of education, national and international security, human resources, community events, public relations, and other things.

"I have known Ms. Attao all my life so I speak from the heart when I

state that she has a genuine desire to see our people succeed in forming a robust and sufficient workforce to fill the needs of the Commonwealth now and in the future," Concepcion said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



COPE NORTH

U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 14th Fighter Squadron, Misawa Air Base, Japan, are staged on the flight line in preparation for Exercise Cope North 20 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Feb. 12, 2020. Cope North 20 is an annual trilateral field training exercise conducted at Andersen AFB, Guam, and around the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Palau and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia.

U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN GRACIE LEE

HK

From Page 1

Saipan following HK Express' recent flight suspension, CPA took it into their hands to reach out to the airline.

Although the "unfortunate incident" is out of CPA's jurisdiction, they will still help in any way they can, King-Hinds said.

"We've communicated with Hong Kong Express [and] their ground handler, POI Aviation, and they're aware that there are 120 passengers here. Now, obviously, this is not an airport issue. It is an airline carrier issue but we have to be proactive in terms of trying to help these people out because

they're stuck here through no fault of their own," she said.

King-Hinds said CPA has also been in contact with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and they have also been made aware of the issue with these soon-to-be overstaying tourists. She said that CPA has been communicating with the CBP. "They are well aware of the situation."

King-Hinds said the government administration is also on top of the situation since there are other possible complications, like overstaying a tourist visa.

"Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is on top of the situation. He has communicated with Hong Kong Express. There are other implication and, as far as visa waiver restrictions, they can

only be here for 14 days and so we've got to help them out. There are about 130 passengers from our last communications that are stranded here on Saipan as a result of the suspension of flights from Hong Kong Express," King-Hinds said.

If needed, the Torres administration is ready to reach out to the Chinese consulate itself to get assistance for the repatriation of their citizens, she said.

"The next step basically, if Hong Kong Express doesn't voluntarily come back and bring out these 120 passengers, the governor is ready to communicate directly with the Chinese Consulate to get some sort of assistance to figure out how to bring these people back home," she said.

CPA

From Page 1

estimated \$2.2 million.

"Our projected losses for the remainder of the fiscal year should all four direct China flights remain suspended until the end of the fiscal year is approximately \$3.9 million, which obviously will have an impact on our ability to service our debt to the bond," she said.

To cope with that loss, the committees recommended, among others, an across-the-board cut of eight hours in employees' work hours. That would reduce all airport employees to 72 hours each payroll.

"It's not only necessary to cut hours, which the committee today will be recommending to the board's emergency meeting tomorrow, but it was also important that we take measures, further steps, to cut operational expenses. Assuming that all condi-

tions remain the same for the remainder of this fiscal year, eight hours is sufficient for now. People have to understand that this is a 24-hour operation. Anything more at this point in time would significantly impact our operations," she said.

King-Hinds said other austerity measures the committees recommended were a total freeze on hiring, travel outside of the CNMI, merit increases, overtime, and more.

"So absolutely total complete freeze, including the board. There would be nobody traveling outside of the Commonwealth unless they're doing so as part of a requirement or the trip is federally funded. There will be no new hiring and no replacements unless it's an absolute emergency but even that has to get board approval. There's a freeze on merit increases and overtime, and the basic gas conservation, utility conservation," she said.

King-Hinds added that the board

will also look into capital improvement projects to see what is critical at the moment and what isn't.

"We're also going back to the drawing board to kind of look at what our plans are, what's critical at this point, and as far as what we need to spend on and make some adjustments to those. There are some projects that are funded as part of our insurance reimbursements from Super Typhoon Yutu, so those projects will continue in the order of their priority," she said.

These austerity measures are subject to change, depending on changes to passenger loads and other changes, King-Hinds said.

"Obviously, we have to monitor the situation on a practically daily basis to see if there's any changes in as far as passenger loads [is concerned], as that has a direct impact on our ability to collect revenues. And so, if something changes, we have to go back to the drawing board," she said.

TORRES

From Page 1

Hong Kong Express Airways Ltd., to contact his office within 24 hours to respond to the CNMI's pressing concerns about the stranded travelers.

The governor said if Hong Kong Express fails to contact his office with immediate plans to repatriate these 130 stranded individuals by the evening today, Friday, he will have no choice but to contact the office of the Consulate-General of the People's Republic of China regarding this critical matter.

Although the Commonwealth understands the urgency and need for the suspension of these flights, Torres said that HKE "hastily and without notice" left the travelers stranded in the CNMI with no options for their return.

Torres said the Commonwealth Ports Authority has made it clear that HKE's failure to arrange for the return of the stranded passengers may result in the revocation of future charter flight services and/or the imposition of additional conditions of continued service by the airline into the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The governor said he supports and reiterates CPA's request that HKE maintain communication with the affected travelers regarding plans for their return and ensure that they are provided with food, shelter, and other related welfare necessities while repatriation arrangements are being made.

Torres also supported CPA's re-

quest for HKE to arrange for the immediate return of these stranded passengers back to their initial departure destination.

He said the distressed individuals remain in contact with CPA and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office on Saipan as they seek information and assistance regarding their status in the CNMI and their desire for repatriation.

"HKE has yet to provide CPA, CBP, or the stranded travelers with any correspondences regarding the matter," the governor said.

The administration and CPA did not say where these stranded travelers are currently staying on Saipan.

Torres said CPA had also sent a letter of notice to HKE via POI Aviation concerning the situation, in which they have asked HKE to immediately remedy the situation.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said that Torres has been working closely with CPA, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and CBP over the last few days to address this issue and to take care of these travelers.

While safeguarding public health remains a top priority for the administration, Bautista said this does not mean that innocent travelers should be abandoned.

"They must be given the opportunity to return home safely, and we will assist in making sure that happens," he said.

The press secretary added that the Marianas remains a safe and coronavirus-free destination and that the government will continue to promote the beautiful islands to Korea, Japan, and the rest of the world.

Arrivals increased 51% last January

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI saw a spike in arrivals last month, according to a Marianas Visitors Authority statement yesterday.

Arrivals on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota increased 51% from the 36,878 posted in January 2019 to 55,686 in January 2020. The increase was expected as the CNMI was still suffering in January 2019 from the residual effects of Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the CNMI in October 2018 and closed down the Saipan airport for months.

Latest MVA figures show that China arrivals decreased 2%, with 18,425 visitors posted in January in the run-up to the Chinese New Year holiday during the second half of the month. As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, three direct flight services to Saipan were suspended in February as a public health precautionary measure and due to decreased demand.

According to MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo, MVA is working to strengthen its marketing and promotions in Korea and Japan in the wake of the suspension of flights from China. MVA plans to advertise to the Japan and Korea market that the Marianas is a coronavirus-free destination.

"We will continue to support our partners through seminars in three different Japan cities which are Osaka, Nagoya, and Tokyo, that we [MVA] will be hosting at the end of February," said Iakopo.

According to MVA, Korea grew 111% on a year-to-year basis in January 2020 to 30,648. T'Way Air, which is a low-cost airline in South Korea, is working on a second daily daytime flight from Seoul Incheon to the CNMI late February 2020. Additionally, Asiana Airlines upgraded its aircraft services from Seoul Incheon to an A300 airplane, with 298 seats, from Jan. 1, 2020 through late March 2020.

Visitor arrivals from Japan grew 522% to 3,927 visitors in January due to daily, direct flights that Skymark Airlines launched in November, from Tokyo-Narita to Saipan.

One ship arrival on Jan. 3 brought in 1,791 visitors, mostly from China.



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Not everyone born in American Samoa wants US citizenship

HONOLULU (AP)—Growing up in American Samoa, Filipino Ilaoa's neighbors were his cousins on a plot of land full of banana and breadfruit trees shared by his extended family and overseen by a chief elected by his relatives.

He worries a federal judge's recent ruling in Utah saying those born in the U.S. territory should be recognized as U.S. citizens could threaten "fa'a Samoa," the Samoan way of life, which includes cultural traditions like prayer curfews, communal living and a belief that the islands' lands should stay in Samoan family hands.

"Basically, what it comes down to is freedom — the freedom to own communal land," said Ilaoa, 66, a retired Marine Corps sergeant major



Filipo Ilaoa, left, and Bonnelley Pa'uulu pose in Honolulu with the flag of American Samoa. They worry a court ruling granting citizenship to those living in the U.S. territory, could threaten local customs like the ability to own communal land.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

who works at the American Samoa government's office in Hawaii.

In December, U.S. District Judge Clark Waddoups sided with three people from Ameri-

can Samoa who live in Utah and sued to be recognized as citizens. The judge ruled the Utah residents are entitled to birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment. He then

put his ruling on hold pending appeal.

The U.S. government, which argues automatic citizenship should be a decision for Congress, filed an appeal Friday. The American Samoa government is also expected to appeal and has until Monday to do so.

American Samoa is the only U.S. territory where residents have no birthright claim to citizenship. Instead, those born in the cluster of islands some 2,600 miles (4,184 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii are granted "U.S. national" status, meaning they can't vote for U.S. president, run for office outside American Samoa or apply for certain jobs. The only federal election they can cast a vote in is the race for American Samoa's nonvoting U.S. House seat.

Supporters of automatic citizenship say it would particularly benefit the estimated 150,000 to 160,000 nationals who live in the states, largely concentrated in California, Hawaii, Washington, Utah and Alaska.

The territory's population is only about 55,000. Yet many there say they're happy being nationals and worry birthright citizenship would influence customs, like their unique land ownership system.

"Right now the government of the United States doesn't own a square inch of land in American Samoa," said Ilaoa, who left his village of Leone at 18 to join the Marine Corps and later became a citizen to qualify for military jobs that require top-secret clearance.

"We build what we want. Any time we want."

Most property in American Samoa is owned communally among families. Within villages, there are communal lands where extended families live together. Family members select chiefs, or matai, to regulate village life and oversee the land.

Samoan law restricts the sale of most property to anyone with less than 50% Samoan ancestry.

"There are still blood quantum racial restrictions on the ownership and alienation of land," said Michael Williams, a Washington, D.C., lawyer representing the American Samoa government in challenging the lawsuit. "And to say that U.S. citizens can't own land because of racial restrictions, that's the sort of thing that one would expect would come under scrutiny from the courts."

Some are uncomfortable with a faraway judge making decisions about their relationship with the United States, Williams said.

"Everybody else will come and impose their right in the village that is perfectly designed to fit every family's need that occupies that land," said Tisa Fa'amuli, who owns Tisa's Barefoot Bar in the village of Alega on Tutuila, the largest island in the American Samoa archipelago.

"At the end of the day, we are so proud of who we are," she said. "We love who we are, and we don't want to change that."

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Kilili: Bill protects patients from surprise medical charges

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Patients and their families in the Marianas will be protected from surprise medical bills under terms of legislation approved by the U.S. House Education and Labor Committee yesterday.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), a member of the committee, asked committee chair Robert Scott to clarify that the Marianas and U.S. territories were covered by the Ban Surprise Billing Act, before a final vote was taken.

"I want to clarify for my colleague, Mr. Sablan, and others, that H.R. 5800 does apply to territories," Scott said. "This is because the bill relies on a definition of 'state' that applies to the territories. Therefore, the protections against surprise billing under this bill will be afforded equally to patients and families in those areas."

Sablan thanked Scott for putting that clarification on the record during the committee mark-up. "This is not just an issue for people [in] the [U.S.] mainland," Sablan said. "I know constituents in the Marianas who thought they were covered by their health insurance, only to find out later there were medical costs they had to pay out of pocket."

Sablan said that emergen-

cy air ambulance service in the Marianas is one example of a cost that can be billed to patients, unexpectedly, after

the fact.

Surprise billing is an issue that hits Republicans and Democrats alike. So, the Ban

Surprise Billing Act gathered bipartisan support, when the committee voted yesterday. The bill is also supported by

consumer advocacy groups, including the American Association of Retired Persons.

Now, that H.R. 5800 has

been voted out of committee the bill can be considered by the entire House of Representatives. (PR)

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'People are getting just snapshots on FEMA reimbursements'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing the lack of information about how much the Federal Emergency Management Agency owes the CNMI in reimbursements, Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan) said the people are only getting a snapshot from the Torres-Palacios administration.

"We still don't know how much FEMA owes us in reimbursements," said Propst when asked for comments Wednesday about the administration's austerity measures

that will implement a 64-hour work schedule for government employees.

The lawmaker said he has already asked the administration how much has FEMA reimbursed the CNMI so far since Super Typhoon Yutu hit the CNMI in October 2018 and how much does FEMA still owe the Commonwealth in reimbursements to date.

"I haven't found the answers. I am still waiting for the answers," he said.

Propst said his frustration is that the administration needs to take that FEMA reimburse-

ment into consideration.

"When we are looking at all numbers and coming up with this report, we need to see everything. But we are only getting a snapshot. That is basically my frustration," he said.

During last Wednesday's debate on House Bill 21-104 to eliminate the 30-day grace period for importers to pay the excise tax on good that require Customs inspection and clearance, Propst pointed out that the government is pushing for the elimination of the grace period "because it is important to collect right now." Yet if ev-

erybody is looking at collecting, why aren't we looking at the elephant in the room?" asked Propst, referring to the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which he said is the biggest corporation that owes the government the most money.

He said it's great that IPI had already paid, but they still owe the Commonwealth government more money. "If we really want to make things better, and if we are going to go after small businesses to collect from them and every other businesses in the CNMI, why

isn't this administration, why aren't our elected officials and agencies going after IPI to ensure they pay what they duly owe the Commonwealth?" Propst asked.



He said if the government does collect even one third of what IPI owes the CNMI right now, that would put the government in much better position financially.

Propst said the 64-hour cut that people are seeing right now can't be blamed entirely on Super Typhoon Yutu and the coronavirus outbreak as there are other factors. He said

the CNMI government has had a deficit for three straight years. Even before Yutu came, the government had an \$8 million deficit in fiscal year 2017 and almost a \$26 million deficit in fiscal year 2018. For fiscal year 2019, the numbers kept changing, Propst said. First, the administration reported it was a \$98 million deficit and then they said it was \$88 million.

Propst said the administration is now readjusting the number.

"Regardless, whatever the number is, we are still in deficit," he pointed out.


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-DCCA/CCDF-048**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 02, 2020 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"TO DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC PLAN TO FACILITATE COLLABORATION & COORDINATION AMONG THE CNMI'S ECE PROGRAM IN A MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL** WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 20, 2020.**



QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO MS. MARIBEL LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL AT mloste.cnmicdf@gmail.com OR VIA FAX TO (670) 664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 21, 2020.** ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-DCCA/CCDF-049**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 02, 2020 TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"TO DEVELOP & IMPLEMENT A PLAN FOR SHARING BEST PRACTICES AMONG THE CNMI'S EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION PROVIDERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL** WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 21, 2020.**



QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO MS. MARIBEL LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL AT mloste.cnmicdf@gmail.com OR VIA FAX TO (670) 664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 24, 2020.** ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-DCCA-CCDF-050**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 02, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"TO MAXIMIZE PARENTAL CHOICE & KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE CNMI'S MIXED DELIVERY SYSTEM OF EXISTING PROGRAMS & PROVIDERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A **MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL** WILL BE HELD AT THE OFFICE OF CHILD CARE & DEVELOPMENT FUND BUILDING NO. 1347, ASCENSION COURT IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN AT **10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 24, 2020.**


QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO MS. MARIBEL LOSTE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR VIA EMAIL AT mloste.cnmicdf@gmail.com OR VIA FAX TO (670) 664-2547 **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, FEBRUARY 25, 2020.** ALL QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.


THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION


As of February 14, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Calvary International Mission dba Agape Christian School	01/23/2020 SMS-2020-X-030	Three Storey Building with Basement	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*
2. Marianas Visitors Authority	01/27/2020 SSLRm-2020-X-030	31st Tagaman Triathlon	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Application Withdrawn
3. Davies Translation & Consulting LLC dba Jungle Jim Island Adventures	01/30/2020 STRRLR-2020-X-033	Snorkeling Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan, Tinian, & Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 02/05/2020
4. CNMI Public School System, Athletic Department	02/12/2020 SSLRm-2020-X-035	PSS Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Races	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline, Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



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Commonwealth Judiciary**
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP20-JUDICIARY-03

SUBMISSION DATE: February 28, 2020
TIME: 3:00 P.M.

"THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY ADULT DRUG COURT TREATMENT SERVICES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED BY VISITING THE CASHIER WINDOW, WINDOW #1, LOCATED AT THE FRONT GUMA' HUSTISIA / IMWAL AWEWE / HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTIONS 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ROBERTO C. NARAJA
PRESIDING JUDGE

/s/ JOHN T. VILLAGOMEZ
JUDICIARY PROCUREMENT OFFICER

NEWS BRIEFS**Small craft advisory hoisted**

A small craft advisory remains in effect through Sunday night, with northeast winds of 25 to 30 knots and occasional gusts of up to 35 knots through Friday night. Winds will lower to around 20 to 25 knots Saturday.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, combined seas of 11 to 14 feet will gradually subside to 9 to 12 feet Sunday. Highest seas will be east of the islands and waters exposed to swell from the east to northeast.

These winds and seas will be hazardous to operators of small craft. The public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Lima Li named to dean's list

TEANECK, NJ—Saipan-born Lima Li, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Metropolitan Campus in Teaneck, NJ, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must carry a 3.2 or better grade point average out of a

possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

Mark Samuel Merante named to dean's list

MADISON, NJ—Saipan-born Mark Samuel Merante, a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus in Madison, NJ, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester.

To qualify for the dean's list, a student must carry a 3.2 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0 and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 letter-graded hours (four courses).

FDU's Florham Campus is located on the former Vanderbilt-Twombly estate in suburban Morris County.

Fairleigh Dickinson University is New Jersey's largest private university and features more than 100 liberal arts and professional degree programs, two international campuses, dozens of partnerships with internationally renowned institutions and special programs and status within the United Nations. For more information, go to www.fdu.edu. *(PR)*

E-File & Serve having technical glitches

The CNMI Judiciary's electronic filing system, E-File & Serve, is currently experiencing technical difficulties. Until further notice, all persons seeking

to file and serve with either the Supreme Court or the Superior Court must file and serve in accordance with the Commonwealth Rules of Practice and the Commonwealth Rules for Electronic Filing and Service. For more information, contact the following individuals: Gretchen A. Smith, Clerk of Court, CNMI Supreme Court, at (670) 236-9715 or email gretchen.smith@nmijudiciary.com; or Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court at (670) 235-5248 or email patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.com. *(PR)*

en A. Smith, Clerk of Court, CNMI Supreme Court, at (670) 236-9715 or email gretchen.smith@nmijudiciary.com; or Patrick V. Diaz, Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court at (670) 235-5248 or email patrick.diaz@nmijudiciary.com. *(PR)*

Kagman schools set PTSA meeting

The February Parents Teachers Students Association meeting of the Kagman Unified Schools has been moved to Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2020. The venue is at the Kagman High School cafeteria starting at 5:30pm. All parents and guardians are being encouraged to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Call the any of the three schools at 237-3150 (KAGE), 237-3165 (COVMS), or 237-3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. *(PR)*

ing at 5:30pm. All parents and guardians are being encouraged to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Call the any of the three schools at 237-3150 (KAGE), 237-3165 (COVMS), or 237-3196 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. *(PR)*



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File photo shows Mount Carmel School students participating in AP Computer Science Principles. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MCS earns College Board AP award for 2nd year in a row

Mount Carmel School has once again earned the College Board AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science Principles. Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded young women's access to AP computer science courses.

Out of the 20,000 institutions that offer AP courses, 818 achieved this important result during the 2018-2019 school year—nearly 20% more than the 685 schools recognized last year. In 2019, Mount Carmel School was one of 639 recognized in the category of AP Computer Science Principles. An additional 36 schools received the award for both CSP and CSA.

"We're proud to see the creativity, commitment, and enthusiasm our female students have demonstrated in their

study of AP Computer Science Principles," said MCS president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "As educators and administrators, we believe a STEM education plays a critical role in fostering a lifelong relationship with learning and setting our female students on a path to success in a 21st century workforce."

"At MCS, we are continuously learning new or more impactful ways to engage with our students and introduce them to potential career paths after graduation" said computer science teacher Filmah Buenaflor. "A growth mindset and grit are needed to be successful not only in computing but as well as any other field."

Schools receiving the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have achieved either 50% or higher female representation in either or both of the AP computer science courses, or the percentage of female computer science examinees meets or exceeds that of the school's female population.

"Mount Carmel School is

empowering young women to see themselves as creators, innovators, and problem-solvers," said Stefanie Sanford, College Board global policy chief. "We hope to see even more high schools inspire female students to harness the potential of an AP computer science education."

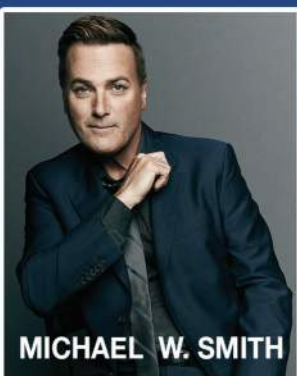
The introduction of AP Computer Science Principles in 2016 was the largest course launch in AP Program history. In 2019, nearly 100,000 students took the AP CSP exam, more than doubling participation in three years. During that time, the number of female AP CSP students has far outpaced overall growth, with an increase of 136%.

Providing female students with access to computer science courses is necessary to ensuring gender parity in high-paying technology jobs and to drive innovation, creativity, and competition. A 2014 Google study found that women are more likely to pursue computer science if they are given the opportunity to explore it in high school. (PR)

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PDM hauls 540 lbs of trash on MLK Day

PDM Promoters collected 540 lbs of trash during its January cleanup of Paseo de Marianas on Martin Luther King Day last Jan. 20.

A total of 34 volunteers showed up for the monthly cleanup: 27 members of the Saipan Awaodori Team and seven employees of Kinpachi Restaurant.

"We did our first cleanup for 2020 last Martin Luther King Day because the children didn't have any school. It's getting harder to ask them to volunteer on the weekends because they're very busy," said PDM Promoters coordinator Sonia Siwa.

Last month's cleanup began at 9am and covered the

areas of Paseo de Marianas, Coral Tree Avenue, American Memorial Park Road, Beach Road, and their connecting alleyways.

PDM Promoters' monthly cleanups are usually held every Saturday and are supported by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and the non-profit's major

sponsors, T-Galleria and TSL Foundation.

Siwa said T-Galleria and TSL Foundation's support enables them to have the

cleaning materials needed for their cleanups. Kinpachi Restaurant, meanwhile, provides the meal and snacks for the volunteers.

Volunteers of PDM Promoters will be at it again in February when it conducts its second monthly cleanup of 2020. *(Mark Rabago)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Volunteers of PDM Promoters pose with the 540 lbs of trash they collected during their cleanup last month at Paseo de Marianas.

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MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

In China, the coronavirus outbreak has exposed the authoritarian regime's greatest weakness



In this Feb. 10, 2020, file photo, released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping, left, wearing a protective face mask, receives a temperature check at a community health center in Beijing.

After days out of the public eye, President Xi Jinping has reappeared in videos designed to project confidence in his government's handling of a virus, Covid-19, that has killed more than 1,000 people in China.

The world isn't buying it, and neither should the Chinese people.

Weeks ago, Beijing appeared to act with authoritarian speed and decisiveness—the type of response that democracies, with checks and balances and respect for civil liberties, sometimes envy: It shut transport links, tracked the movement of infected individuals, quarantined large populations and built a major hospital in just days.

But the command-and-control Communists failed to contain the virus because far more important ingredients were and remain missing: transparency, trust and the free flow of information.

The biggest failure was early on, as apparatchiks, true to form, buried all negative news. That official silence enabled millions to carry the microbe from its Wuhan epicenter across the nation and across borders.

When a doctor—a public health hero—sounded the alarm, Beijing repaid him by discrediting, then detaining him. He contracted the virus, dying.

Beijing's persistent efforts to starve its populace of information are backfiring. Maybe the people are catching another kind of bug, from Hong Kong.

Let's not be too smug. The United States has yet to be severely tested; our public health infrastructure has its own major vulnerabilities. But China's struggles remind us that a government that treats its people like mushrooms has no hope of containing a highly communicable pathogen.

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Water everywhere

Our fresh water floats on top of salt water in a “lens”-shaped mass. Our aquifer differs from those in larger landmasses but, no matter whether water is stored in lakes, reservoirs, deep drilled into a rocky substrate or floated on a lens like ours, it is an indispensable part of life for our species and, in fact, all land-dwelling biological animals.

We get it out of that lens and into our kitchen sink using wells with submersible pumps driven by electricity, then pumped on to our houses via a water purification (chlorine) process and pumps to push it through a network of pipes. Many of those pipes are old. Some dating to the Trust Territory days. The pipes crack, leak, fail totally every once in a while and generally waste a huge percentage of our most precious natural resource.

Folks have been trying to solve that high loss problem for decades. Back in Kumoi's day ('90s) he tried, without much success, to cut those losses and upgrade the system. During the Babauta administration, then-Lt. Gov. Diego Benavente formed a “Water Task Force,” bought new well drilling equipment and tried, also without a lot of success, to reduce losses via new piping. Although better funded than Kumoi, both Diego and he simply did not have the resources in hand to complete such a massive project.

Recently, CUC has been on a tear for the last several years trying to replace worn out storage tanks, replacing main and feeder lines, and once in a while proclaiming that everyone now has pressurized, fully potable water pumped directly to their house. An exaggeration to be sure. There are plenty of places where the water simply does not flow 24/7. Literally no one anymore has pure, non-salty water into their home or business and while CUC claims that the water is perfectly safe to drink no matter how bad it tastes, none of them actually drink it nor does anyone else I know. We all buy reverse osmosis-filtered water from one or more of the providers of that product for drinking, cooking and even car washing, as the CUC product has so much salt in it it rusts out our cars.

Now we learn that a number of the wells that pump the mostly fresh water out of the ground from our lens have been determined to be unsafe and have been shut down. Remember that in a small landmass like ours, it is far easier to pollute our water supply with illegal dumping of oils, service station gas tank leaks, over-fertilization in farming communities, sewage overflows and many other point sources for nasty toxins to get into out tiny water lens. In this case, about half of the 20 shutdown wells are because they are not mechanically sound. The other half are plain and simple polluted. Because our aquifer is fragmented, it takes about 140 wells to get the water from the many small areas of limestone where we can access it. So the loss of

SOOR GRAPES By BRUCE BATEMAN Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.



20 wells is not devastating. What is devastating is that the water system itself loses about half the water it produces. We produce twice as much water as CUC is paid for. That is a pretty poor showing after 30 years of working on the problem.

IPI

I read a press release from IPI on Wednesday that gave me pause for thought. It basically said hey, like you and many other businesses, we have all taken some pretty hard hits with two massive typhoons, and several other negative factors hitting our tiny economy. Now we have the coronavirus kicking us down and, especially with IPI's primary customer base, Chinese visitors, totally unable to come to the CNMI, it means they are doing what the government and many other companies are doing, reducing workforce hours in order not to have to lose valuable, trained employees.

They admit they are behind in some payments but promise to bring those up to date by next month...more than the CNMI government will do for certain. When government income is down this much, there are not many options. One is to delay payments when there is not sufficient money to pay them all. The same is true for private sector companies. Ask most of those still remaining in business now after this kick-in-the-gut COVID-19 virus has stopped a huge percentage of our visitors from travelling here.

May I suggest that it is time we unite in support of this, our largest by far single business instead of attacking and kicking them while they are down. If you are a retiree you have enjoyed five years of your 100% retirement pension because IPI has paid it. For the rest of us, our government's budget more than doubled during those years, from the same IPI coffers mostly, allowing for many more services to be provided to us citizens by our government. IPI even paid their taxes far in advance (\$40 million in advance) when they had the resources to do so to help the

See WATER on Next Page

Constructive policies

Policies are designed to improve the quality of life of people at home. Elected and appointed officials work on a set of plans to move things forward.

Right now, the drop in revenue necessitates cuts in expenses that prompted the work hour reduction to 64 hours bi-weekly. It's based on our revenue going south, thus the need to live within our means. It's a must to stay afloat.

It's a tough situation having recently recovered from the destruction of Typhoon Yutu. Today, we're on full guard for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), a deadly respiratory disease spreading steadily throughout the global village.

Clarity

I fail to see the elected elite converging to take incisive review of policies that have succeeded or failed to make amends to improve life on the islands.

As such there emerges persistent half-cocked policy enforcement or negligence altogether. Or did I miss my bus ride on this score?

Why is there the persistent refusal to resolve our issues in straightforward and timely fashion? Eh, the "tide waits for no man." Either we put our best foot forward or watch in frustration as others do it for us without our participation.

Moreover, it's for the public good if those tasked to assist in fact fulfill fiduciary duty daily. In other words, you must earn your dues! Otherwise, you turn into another inconsequential employee who goes home with unearned loot at the expense of taxpayers.

Shortfall

The \$48.3 million budgetary shortfall signals a huge decrease in local revenue. Concurrently, it confirms negative economic activities on the islands.

We're beneficiaries of the huge drop in the global economy where no one is spared! I suppose we could blame on COVID-19 spreading quickly throughout the global village.

It is an issue that merits serious ocular review by the elected elite. The fact that we would have far less revenue the more critical it is that we review and dispose of the issue rationally.

The visitor industry is also adversely affected, with hotels having to cut work hours forthwith. There's a significant drop in visitor numbers, thus the concurrent reduction in occupancy. Bottom line: less revenue in both sectors! It doesn't leave room for complacency.

An overview is a must that includes revenue generation, current and mounting obligations and what costs we could pay with our scarce financial resources.

"Nice-to-have" expenses must be parked until further notice. We could only afford paying for "must-have" costs in public services.

WATER

From Page 12

government ease its tough financial position.

If you like to gamble, well, go on down and try your luck. I don't, so I will support the food and beverage outlets, the restaurants and bars at the casino. I understand they have plans to open a few more restaurants there and I will be looking forward to trying them out. If you do neither, at least don't slam them when they are trying to do their best to stay here and continue to be our CNMI's top producing business and single greatest taxpayer by far. Give some support where it is due. I realize there is a small contingent that wants to see IPI gone from our shores for their own reasons. Just remember that those few nitpickers are totally clueless as to how to replace those tax revenues that IPI brings to the table, or the large multiplier effect their income has as it circulates through our economy, or the hundreds of local jobs provided by IPI.

While you are at it, be a supporter of the other businesses on island that have all been impacted by these challenges and by the current COVID-19 scare. Every one of the major hotels on island is experiencing the same problems of high overhead and a low income stream. Support their restaurants and stay over in their rooms on the weekends if you can. PIC, Kanoa Resort, Saipan World Resort, Grandvrio, Fiesta, Hyatt, Aqua Resort Club, and Kensington all are suffering the same economic shocks. What about the scores of smaller businesses suffering now? Try as you can to support the restaurants and shops that are a vital part of our tourism industry. They too are there through thick and thin. Please support them as well.

I am in full support and I hope you are too.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

■ ■ ■

"Thousands have lived without love, not one without water."

—H. Auden

"All the water that will ever be is, right now."

—National Geographic

Exit

The recent return to Japan of Nippon investments dovetailed by the exit of other investments has adversely affected the NMI coffers. It means bracing for some sacrifice domesticating spending, full measure.

Can't afford complacency on this matter and not when it comes down to pennies, nickels, and dimes. It prompts prudence in spending. Neither does arrogance the very local attitude that forced departure of investors.

Other than useless marshland reed, is there anything in the local economy we could rely upon for steady cushioning?

About two years ago, personal intuition flags something bad is headed our way, though unsure what the beast was about.

It's here in simple arithmetic as we eye the annual budget: 10 minus nine equals one! Indeed, it's a challenge for those at the helm in charge of diminishing funds against mounting obligations.

Resolve

Over the last 40 years I've heard the elected elite mouth off on the dire need to cut the cost of government operations. The same advice still echoes from Da Hills of Saipan today.

Even more interesting is the obvious lack of resolve to put what's said into action. For instance, if we really have the resolve to do things right, what's the delay in reducing the 29-member bicameral Legislature to a 10-member unicameral system that also cost far less than the current \$4.8 million annually?

Moreover, does the NMI really need more than 2,000 employees paid at least \$17 million every 10 days? This only includes civil servants, not political hires. When do we buckle down to

A 'tyranny of the majority' should never be allowed in the CNMI

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In 1789—or about 230 years ago—the U.S. Constitution was ratified and approved by the 13 original colonies. This landmark legal instrument established the first democracy in the world. As a representative democracy, the people of the United States freely choose their political leaders at a general election, held every two to four years.

Since that time, representative democracy began to replace the longstanding practice known as the "divine right of kings." Rule by a monarchy or king began to give way to democratic institutions in the world. France was the next to follow.

The original Constitution was soon amended by the framers to include the Bill of Rights, a comprehensive set of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution that protect the rights of individuals from the awesome powers of the government.

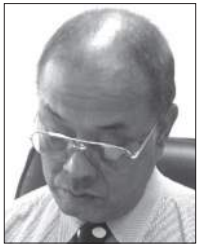
In 1976, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, exercising their inalienable right to political self-determination, freely voted to become a part of the American democracy. After a comprehensive public education program under the leadership of the Erwin D. Canham, the esteemed editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*, the Covenant was ratified by the people of the Northern Mariana Islands at a general plebiscite observed by the United Nations. The Northern Marianas Covenant set forth the basic and fundamental terms of our relationship with the United States. The right of the people to exercise local self-government without infringement by the federal government, the right to own land, the right to a jury trial, and the composition of the CNMI Senate are some of the fundamental provisions of the Covenant, which may be amended only with the consent and approval of both the people of the CNMI and the United States government.

Two years later, on Jan. 9, 1978, we began to govern ourselves under our own local constitution—our basic local law. We elected our first political leaders—the first governor and the first members of our bicameral Legislature, among others. Over 40 years have passed since we began governing ourselves. As we should know, we have experienced a number of ups and downs in the way we have governed ourselves since 1978. Our local leaders have, on many occasions, made decisions or took actions that were questionable or simply failed to follow applicable laws and regulations. On a number of occasions, they have made decisions benefitting family members, business associates, and cronies.

When we began self-government, some of us may have thought that these legal or conflict of interest issues were simply the result of our leaders' inexperience in governing and, therefore, excusable. After all, this was the first time, after 400 years of colonization, that the people of the CNMI truly began governing themselves. Such excuse may appear justifiable during

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

real cuts so the money is used on meaningful programs to help taxpayers muddle along?

Investments have stagnated while we ponder where this canoe is headed against towering stormy waves of mounting obligations. It's a matter of policy, isn't it? Where necessary, it simply means reinventing or cancelling paradigms to cut spending as a matter of course until the economy is founded on solid foundation.

Acquitted

The U.S. Senate made history last week when it acquitted President Trump without the commission of a crime. Since when do we put people in jail while we look for crimes to fit suspicion?

Dems

Fragmented Dems have three contenders looking to represent the party as its presidential candidate. The division would intensify that compromises unity from A-Z. It sets Trump to wear Number 45!

the first decade of CNMI self-government. But after 40 years of governing ourselves (?) and after our laws have been in place for four decades now (?), our leaders have absolutely no reason to feign ignorance of the law or with issues of conflict, whether local or federal. We can no longer use our inexperience at self-governance as an excuse for the failure of our leaders to govern competently, for the benefit of all the people and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Our leaders, as we all know, are elected to serve all of the people of the CNMI, not just the members of the elected leader's political party. Very sadly and embarrassingly, however, a fairly large number of our government leaders (both elected and appointed) believe that they are not answerable to the people, particularly to those whom they suspect did not vote for them, are members of the losing political party, or who openly criticize their performance in office. When our leaders do this, they are hurting the entire Commonwealth, because they are not fulfilling their constitutional obligation to serve all of the people of the Commonwealth.

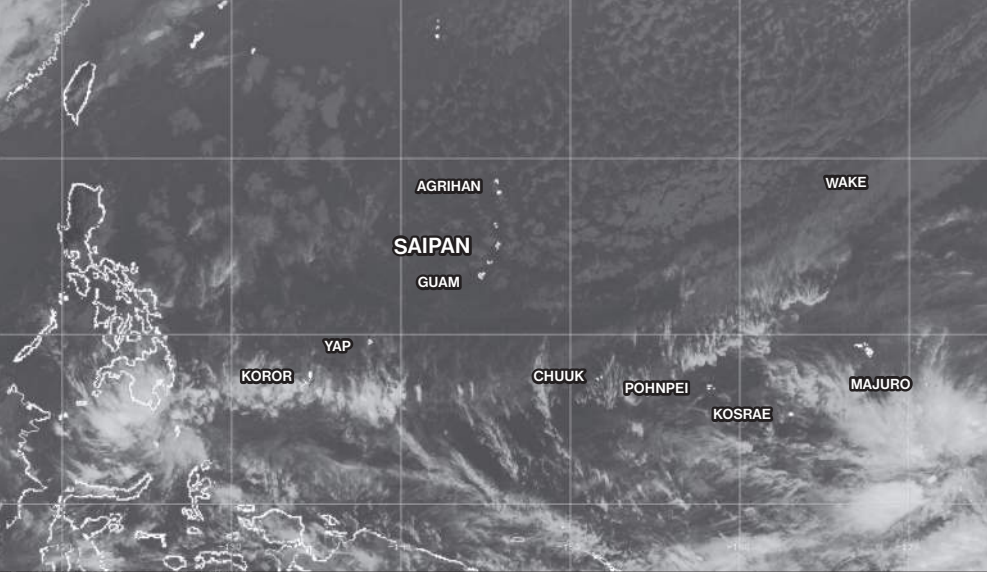
Every now and then, however, a few of our political leaders would rise above the fray and try to do what is right, i.e. put the interest of all the people above partisan or personal interest. These leaders are not afraid to criticize the decisions made and the actions taken by the ruling majority party—decisions and actions which openly benefit themselves, or their friends, cronies, and business associates. These rare leaders willingly put their necks on the line. They are not afraid to criticize any unlawful or questionable actions or transactions taken by those in power. Their guiding principle is two-fold: all laws and regulations must be followed and any law and regulation enacted or promulgated by the government must benefit everyone in the Commonwealth. They act as "gadflies" against corruption in government. For their willingness to put their neck on the line, without fear of retribution, of being ridiculed or being made fun of, they deserve the thanks of the people of the Commonwealth.

About 200 years ago, the French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville visited America and wrote his now famous book, *Democracy in America*. It should be required reading for everyone in the Commonwealth. In his book, de Tocqueville observed that in the newly-established American democracy, the people should always watch out for and should always be vigilant against the "tyranny of the majority." This, of course, is the lurking danger in any democratic system of government, because our leaders are elected by the majority of the voters. When the majority fails to realize that all elected leaders are sworn to serve all of the people—both majority and minority, then the tyranny of the majority will rear its ugly head and our democratic system of government will suffer. We should never allow this to happen.

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former chief justice of the NMI Supreme Court.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	75°	86°	75°	86°	75°	86°	75°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:47 AM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The dry, stable air mass persists in the wake of the shear line/frontal boundary. High pressure currently north of the Marianas will slide eastward the next several days, introducing a more typical trade-wind pattern by Sunday. Models hint at weak surface troughs passing through the Marianas next week which would encourage a bit more shower activity. Wind-sheltered valleys could dip into the 60s the next few nights due to the dry, "post frontal" air mass and partly cloudy skies.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Windy	82° / 75°	
Palau	Showers	84° / 77°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Showers	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Showers	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 68°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	36° / 19°	
Hong Kong	Rain	72° / 54°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 71°	
London	Showers	54° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	71° / 50°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 73°	
Melbourne	Showers	70° / 61°	
Miami	Showers	81° / 70°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	32° / 18°	
Osaka	Cloudy	61° / 48°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 46°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 43°	
Rome	Showers	64° / 41°	
Salem	Sunny	55° / 31°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°	
Seoul	Rain	54° / 28°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	61° / 50°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	37° / 20°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:22 AM	LOW TIDE	0.18	
11:38 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84	
6:21 PM	LOW TIDE	0.30	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:41 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:41 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:41 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:40 AM	6:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:32 AM	11:18 PM
Saturday	-	11:18 AM	-
Sunday	12:16 AM	12:04 PM	-
Monday	1:13 AM	12:53 PM	-
Tuesday	2:10 AM	1:44 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily

1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Mariner goes missing

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Air Force, and regional partners are searching for a 47-year-old mariner who went missing Wednesday from the Panamanian-flagged merchant vessel *Rising Wind* 174 miles northwest of Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia.

“In cases such as this one, we often rely on our partners in the region to coordinate effective searches and cover vast areas,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Colby Anderson, a Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam watchstander. “The Air Force is augmenting our air asset with another aircraft to cover more search area faster than we can do alone.”

An Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules aircrew, Air Force 36th Wing C-130J Super Hercules aircrew, and the crew of the *Rising Wind* are conducting searches of the area. JRSC Guam watchstanders are coordinating with local partners and also reaching out to good Samaritans in the region to assist.

At 5:44pm, Tuesday, JRSC Guam watchstanders received a report from Rescue Coordination Cen-

ter Australia watchstanders stating they received a call from the first mate of the 751-foot bulk carrier *Rising Wind* reporting the vessel’s master was missing. The master was last seen in his cabin, feeling ill, wearing a dark-blue winter jacket, brown pants, and slippers.

Upon realizing the master was missing, the *Rising Wind*’s crew turned the vessel around and began retracing their course. JRSC Guam watchstanders diverted the Air Station Barbers Point Hercules aircrew from a maritime domain awareness flight nearby and reached out to the Air Force 36th Wing for assistance.

The Air Force agreed to assist and deployed the Super Hercules aircrew from Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, to support in the search. JRSC Guam watchstanders are also assessing the availability of any Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System ships in the region to assist.

The *Rising Wind* was en route from Japan to Australia at the time of the incident.

The weather on scene is winds of 8 mph and seas up to 13 feet. (USCG)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



Congratulations to Rufina and Riolante Mostales for reaching 40 years of happiness together. May you both continue to shower each other with lots of love and hugs. We love you! Greetings come from Joey, Kate, children, and family. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday greetings go out to Valerie Guevara, who is celebrating her special day today! Cheers to my lifelong partner, my best friend, my buddy, my soul mate and my partner-in-crime for life. My wish for your birthday today is that all the dreams should be yours and the nightmares should be mine. Also, happy Heart’s Day! With love from Riel and the kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday greetings go out to Lourdes Valenzuela, who is celebrating her birthday today. Happy 60th birthday, Mom! May God continue to bless you with lots of happiness and healthy life. We love you! Greetings come from your husband, children, grandchildren, and families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
AUTHORITY,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
ERIC B. ATALIG and)
LOURDES F.)
ATALIG,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Tract No. 21769-R2-5 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder’s Office.

Tract No. 21769-R2-9 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder’s Office.

Tract No. 21769-R2-10 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder’s Office.

The foregoing properties contain a total area of 2,618 square meters, more or less. This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on January 12, 2017, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:
1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
- b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier’s check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios to the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/
Charity R. Hodson, F0487

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
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Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
AUTHORITY,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
THE ESTATE OF HERMAN)
T. PALACIOS and THE)
ESTATE OF JOYCELYN)
C. PALACIOS,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 001 I 13, containing an area of 1,529 square meters, more or less, as described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001100, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 712, on the 1st day of March 1971, including all existing and future improvements on the said property;

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on January 7, 2019, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

- 1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public.
- 2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- 3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
- b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier’s check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios to the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487
Attorney for Plaintiff

Richard C. Miller, NMI Bar No. F0458
Miller Law Office, LLC
2nd Fl., Macaranas Bldg., Garapan
PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
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Attorney for Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
9AUTHORITY,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
ESTATE OF)
VICENTE C. CASTRO,)
et al.,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the remaining leasehold interest in the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

55-year leasehold interest, dated December 11, 1991, in:

Part of E.A. 220, situated in Talofofo area, Saipan, Mariana Islands, and further described as follows:

Beginning at a Corner 1 which is North 76-00-17 W, a distance of 1236.64 meters from a triangulation station “CAMP”;

Thence S02° 03' 37" E, 105.42 meters to Corner 2;
Thence S82° 25' 44" E, 225.25 meters to Corner 3;
27Thence S02° 05' 45" W, 79.30 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S68° 36' 09" E, 15.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N42° 34' 32" E, 347.07 meters to Corner 6;
Thence N88° 31' 25" W, 604.33 meters to Corner 1;
the point of beginning.

Containing an area of 90,712.0 square meters, more or less, and being situated on land Square 6, Section 2, Units 1, m, and n, as shown in APWO Drawing No. 11406 on file and with the Clerk of Courts, Saipan District.

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on April 19, 2016, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth

Development Authority from Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

- 1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public.
- 2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- 3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
- b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
- c. To reject any and all bids.

4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Miller Law Office, LLC, through mail with the address of PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to millercmlaw@protonmail.com.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier’s check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation in the property are being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Miller Law Office, LLC
by Richard C. Miller, Esq.

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950
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charity@chodsonlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
AUTHORITY,)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
AMBROSE BENNETT,)
individually and dba)
LIL & BRO’S TRIKE)
DEALERSHIP & RENTALS,)
and JUAN T. LIZAMA,)
Defendants.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 031 A 01, containing an area of 1,186 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 A 00 dated 20 February 1985, as File No. 85-0423.

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on July 23, 2018, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Ambrose Bennett, individual and dba Lil and Bro’s Trike Dealership & Rentals, and Juan T. Lizama.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

- 1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public.
- 2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
- 3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

- a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
 - b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c. To reject any and all bids.
4. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 02607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier’s check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. Change of Terms: The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interest of Defendant Juan T. Lizama to the property is being sold “AS IS” and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487
Attorney for Plaintiff

CNMI 2020 CENSUS ✓ BE COUNTED

Call: (670) 682-2020

  [cnmi2020census](https://www.cnmi2020census.gov)

Email: cnmi@2020census.gov

United States®
**Census
2020**
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

2020 Census of CNMI FAQ

What is the Census?

The decennial Census is the once-a-decade population and housing count of Island Areas such as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The 2020 Census of CNMI will also collect socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the population and housing of CNMI.

What is the purpose of the Census?

The purpose of the Census is to collect information about the population and housing conditions of people living in CNMI, the 50 states, and the other U.S. territories.

Do I have to respond?

Yes, responding to the Census is required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Sections 141 and 193). Your answers are kept completely confidential.

Why is it important to answer the Census Questions?

By answering the Census questions, you will not only be helping your family, but other families in the CNMI.

How will the Census help my family?

Your participation will determine how federal funds will be distributed to the CNMI. The Census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on Census data.

Is my response confidential?

Yes. The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you or your household. Your information will not be shared with any person, business, government or law enforcement agency, or court.

The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous.

How is my information protected?

Being responsible stewards of your data is not only required by law, it is embedded in Census Bureau culture. Strict policies and statistical safeguards help protect the confidentiality of your information. First, every Census employee takes an oath and is required by law to protect

your personal information for life. Anyone who violates this law can face severe penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000 or both.

The security of Census Bureau systems is also a top priority, and the Census Bureau's IT infrastructure is designed to defend against and contain cyberthreats. The Census Bureau follows industry best practices and federal requirements to protect your data. We continually refine our approach to identifying, preventing, detecting, and responding to these threats.

Finally, statistical safeguards ensure that any statistical data products the Census Bureau releases meet confidentiality standards and cannot be used in any way that could identify you or anyone else in your home.

What are the Census questions?

Most of the questions will be similar to what Census forms have asked for in recent counts:

- The number of people living or staying in a home on April 1, 2020
- Whether the home is owned with or without a mortgage, rented or occupied without rent
- A phone number for a person in the home
- The name, sex, age, date of birth and race of each person in the home
- Whether each person is of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
- The relationship of each person to a central person in the home
- Education, income, and employment information of each person in the home
- Ancestry of each person
- Languages spoken by each person
- The type of health insurance coverage (if any) for each person
- Whether any person has any disabilities
- The marital status of each person
- More

How do I respond to the 2020 Census?

If you live in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a Census worker will visit you to complete the 2020 Census in person between March and June 2020. You will not complete the 2020 Census online, by mail, or over the phone.

When is the 2020 Census of CNMI happening?

Census workers will walk neighborhoods to verify and list all homes and other places people might live during February 2020. They will

conduct the 2020 Census in-person interviews at all homes and other places where people live between March and June 2020.

How long will it take to complete the 2020 Census of CNMI Questionnaire?

On average, the 2020 Census of CNMI questionnaire will take about 45 minutes to complete.

How will I know someone is an official 2020 Census of CNMI worker?

All Census workers carry official government badges and a badge identifying them as a 2020 Census worker. You can also call the CNMI Census office for verification at 682-2020.

Census workers will never ask you for banking information, social security numbers, passwords, or to send money or pay a fee in connection with your 2020 Census response.

Why are there more questions on the 2020 Census questionnaire in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands than there are on stateside questionnaires?

Census data are collected only once each decade in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Ongoing surveys are not fielded between Censuses, as they are stateside. The Census Bureau uses a different questionnaire in the Island areas, with more questions, to meet the Island Areas' data needs for detailed social, housing, and economic information for the entire decade.

Why am I seeing advertisements to complete the 2020 Census online and in 10 minutes?

The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands may occasionally receive 2020 Census stateside advertising on national television, radio and social media. However, the 2020 Island Areas Censuses use a different questionnaire with more questions than stateside, and Census workers conduct in-person interviews.

We will not be asking about your citizenship status. We will not ask for your Social Security number, donations, or money. If anyone claiming to be a Census employee asks you any of these, please contact the CNMI Census Office immediately at 682-2020.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID AMENDED PROJECT NO. IFB-004-20

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 09, 2018 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) UNIT POLICE PATROL BOAT WITH TRAILER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer, destination Saipan. Bidders shall take into consideration all charges associated with this procurement before finalizing their bid price.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning January 10, 2020, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Saipan International Airport, upon a non-refundable payment of \$150.00 in cash or cashier's check.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building on January 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., to discuss and ask questions regarding this procurement process. All interested bidders are asked to attend.

Questions regarding this procurement should be submitted through the CPA Executive Director via email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to jtdelacruz@cpa.gov.mp prior to **February 19th, 2020**.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for Procurement and Delivery of one (1) unit Police Patrol Boat with Trailer/IFB-004-20". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Local Time, February 28, 2020**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Bids will be opened at 3:00 p.m. and publicly announced at the CPA Seaport Conference Room. Bidders are welcome to attend the bid opening. Bids submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any bids received after the bid submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned to the bidder unopened.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation for Bids; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the bid would not be in the best interest of CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would not be in CPA's best interest.

All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Invitation for Bid shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: _____



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-20-009

WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified insurance firms to provide workers' compensation insurance and administration for CUC's employees throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and when on official business away from the CNMI.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) Original and Six (6) Hard Copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-20-009, Workers' Compensation & Administration", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 31, 2020** to **Manny B. Sablan**, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to **Vivian Santos**, CUC Human Resource Manager, via email vivian.santos@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-010

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-010, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 6, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. The Bid bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director's approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org, Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-012

SR-2 SEWER LIFT STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of construction of a new sewer lift station to replace the existing SR-2 sewer lift station; installation of new gravity sewer mains, manhole, force main from the new lift station to the nearest existing sewer force main, retaining wall, guard rail, installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFCI) submersible duplex pump and controller; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the entire existing generator buildings, accessories, appurtenances and existing minor structures. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-012, SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) March 10, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Indulge in Chifan cuisine on Valentine's Day

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Many Chinese went to Peru to work in coffee farms or es-

cape the turmoil in their own country during the 1800s and one of the many things that came out of this cultural fusion is Chifan, a kind of cui-

sine and culinary tradition that fuses Chinese and Peruvian ingredients and taste. Due to its unique taste, it has become popular in other Latin

countries like Chile, Ecuador and Bolivia.

Today, as a treat for Valentine's Day, Saipan will get to experience Chifan cuisine for the first time for less than \$50 at the Fisherman's Wharf Seafood Restaurant in Garapan, from 5:30pm to 9pm.

The combined work of Chef Juan Carlos Berrocal from Peru and Chef Peng Hui Xang from Guangdong will be making this gastronomical fusion possible.

"We would like to give the community a rich, quality meal on this special day

but at an affordable prize. For only \$48, people will get a six-course meal of the best Chifan dishes," Berrocal said.

For starters, diners will be treated to golden spicy shrimp and cucumber raita, and Andean chicken fritters with orange tangy syrup. Soup and salad entail celery ginger hazelnut brandy cream and "romance in the bowl" with poppy seed dressing. The main entrée's includes fresh red snapper, Asian prawns, and prime New York steak. Desserts include white tiramisu and Asian pumpkin ginger pie. Red, white and sparkling wine soda are included in the package.

"With the line-up of dishes, we hope to stir up the curiosity and appetite of the community. ...We are trying to promote this kind of food at the restaurant and see from there," Berrocal said. "Our lunch buffet has a wide selection of Chinese, Filipino, and Western dishes and it only goes for \$8, inclusive of iced tea and fresh fruits until Friday."

Fisherman's Wharf is located along Royal Palm Avenue in the tourist district of Garapan at the back of Capricciosa and Tony Roma's. It's open from 10:30am to 2pm and 5:30pm to 10pm daily. For reservations, call (670) 788-4019 or check their FaceBook page: Fisherman's Seafood Wharf Saipan.



Fisherman's Wharf Seafood Restaurant is located along Royal Palm Avenue in the tourist district of Garapan at the back of Capricciosa and Tony Roma's.
BEA CABRERA



Fisherman's Wharf Seafood Restaurant's in-house chefs: Juan Carlos Berrocal from Peru and Peng Hui Xang from Guangdong.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center



Public Service Announcement – Availability of Criminal Justice Grants

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Program include the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA), the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program and the Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG). A brief description and amounts available for each award under individual programs are listed below. Please visit our Office on Capitol Hill, building 1315 for a more detailed explanation on eligibility requirements, program purpose areas and the new application form. **All applicants must have a DUNS number and nonprofit agencies must have a 501 (c) (3) Federal Tax Exemption.**

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) FY2019: \$187,932.00

The Available funds can be implemented in the following purpose areas: Law Enforcement program, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education programs, Corrections and community corrections programs, Drug treatment and enforcement programs. Planning, evaluation, and technology improvement programs. Crime victim and witness program (other than compensation).

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Formula Program: FY2019: \$522,376.00

- To comply with VOCA guidelines, funds made available through VOCA assistance program is intended for agencies that provide direct service to victims of crime. Funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to all victims of child abuse, domestic violence, and sexual assaults.
- All applicants must show in their application how they will provide direct services to one or more of the crime victims mentioned above.
- New applicants must also show on their application that they have a history of providing direct services to crime victims and have other sources of funding to support the program to ensure continuity of services to victims.

Amounts Available:

Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Child Abuse: \$462,376.00
Underserved Crime Victims: \$60,000.00

STOP Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program(VAWA) FY2019: \$556,987.00

STOP-VAWA grant programs provide assistance for victims through protection and services that they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable for their violence. In accordance with the STOP program requirements "CNMI Three Year Implementation Plan", STOP-VAWA grant funds are made available to support law enforcement, prosecution, victim services, and the Superior Court in the CNMI.

Allotted agencies mentioned below, **must** submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals, objectives and activities will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective programs. In accordance with the CNMI Implementation Plan, these categories and/or agencies are allotted at least the following amounts based on the requirements percentages set by VAWA:

- **Non Profit, Non-Governmental Victim Services;** of which at least 10% is to be distributed to culturally-specific community based organizations; Victim Services = \$105,132.00; Culturally Specific Services = \$18,566.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$43,399.00. Total for Victim Services = \$167,097.00.
- **Law Enforcement** \$102,966.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$36,281.00. Total for law Enforcement: \$139,247.00
- **Prosecution** \$102,966.00; Programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$36,281.00. Total for Prosecution \$139,247.00.
- **Courts** \$20,035.00; programs that meaningfully address Sexual Assault Purpose only = \$7,813.00. Total for Court \$27,848.00
- **Discretionary;** may be spent at the discretion of the state/territory to address statutory program areas, \$83,548.00

Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) FY2019: \$58,679.00

The Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP), created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, is the first federal funding stream solely dedicated to the provision of direct intervention and related assistance for victims of sexual assault. Overall, the purpose of SASP is to provide intervention, advocacy, accompaniment, support services, and related assistance for adult, youth, and child victims of sexual assault, family and household members of victims, and those collaterally affected by the sexual assault. This grant is for Non Profit agencies that provide sexual assault services only.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Dates for the award process will be announced at a later date.

All completed applications and required documents must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. Friday, March 06, 2020.
No application will be accepted after the deadline.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:

Completed applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by emailing gncamacho222@gmail.com, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) sent in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4554/4556/4558 or stop by the Office on Capitol Hill (Building #1315). Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call the CJPA Office at 664-4550.

Indirect Cost are applicable to certain government entities.

/s/ Hon. Alexandro C. Castro
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ George N. Camacho
Executive Director, CJPA

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
ITB20-GOV-031**

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF Honey Wagon Truck for the Rota Mayor's Office

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Honey Wagon Truck for the Rota Mayor's Office in Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on February 10, 2020, at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Monday, February 24, 2020 at 10:00 am ChST** at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before **the close of business on February 26, 2020**, to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB20-GOV-031 – "Supply and Delivery of a Honey Wagon Sewer Truck for the Rota Mayor's Office"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST March, 09, 2020**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST March 09, 2020** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to a.magofina@dof.gov.mp. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 09, 2020** and mailed to the Director of Procurement and Supply at P.O. Box 510008 C.K., Saipan MP, 96950 and the bid documents must be received no later than March 18, 2020. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:00 a.m. ChST March 20, 2020**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:00 a.m. ChST March 09, 2020**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Francisco Agion, Acting Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Baltimore shooting leaves 2 officers wounded; suspect dead
BALTIMORE (AP)—A shooting at a Baltimore apartment complex Wednesday ended with the death of a former state corrections official who had been under investigation and the wounding of two fugitive task force officers, authorities said. The officers, one a Baltimore county detective and the other a detective in the city of

Baltimore, were both assigned to the Capital Area Regional Fugitive Task Force and were trying to serve a warrant out of Pennsylvania for attempted murder, said U.S. Marshals Service spokesman David Lutz. “Our worst fears became a reality when shots were fired and the two officers were hit,” Baltimore Police Commissioner Michael Harrison said of the male officers, without specifying who fired. He said the suspect

was fatally shot, but he did not say by whom.

Virginia woman accused of abducting 4 kids found in Indiana
PLAINFIELD, Ind. (AP)—A Virginia woman accused of abducting her four children and leading authorities on a nationwide chase for several months was taken into custody Wednesday morning in Indiana, authorities said. Melody

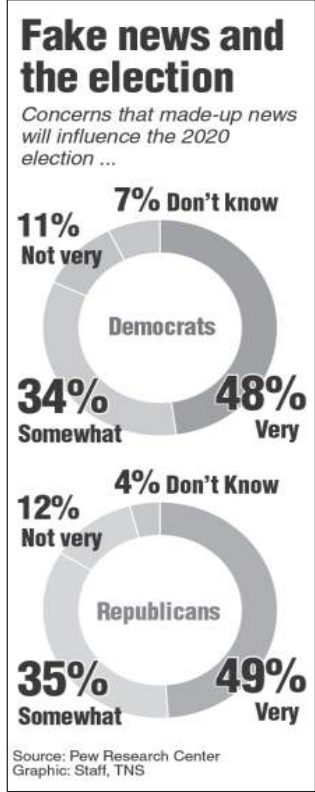
Bannister, 34, of Henrico, Virginia, was arrested at a gas station in Hendricks County, Indiana, by U.S. Marshals and local authorities after being on the run for more than four months, news outlets reported. Her children were found safe inside her car and were taken by the Indiana Department of Child Services. Bannister was wanted in Stafford County, Virginia, on four counts of abduction, filing a false police report,

and violating a court order.

Girls sue to block participation of transgender athletes
HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The families of three female high school runners filed a federal lawsuit Wednesday seeking to block transgender athletes in Connecticut from participating in girls sports. Selina Soule, a senior at Glastonbury High School, Chelsea Mitchell, a senior at Canton High School and Alanna Smith, a sophomore at Danbury High School are represented by the conservative nonprofit organization Alliance Defending Freedom. They argue that allowing athletes with male anatomy to compete has deprived them of track titles and scholarship opportunities. “Mentally and physically, we know the outcome before the race even starts,” said Smith, who is the daughter of former Major League pitcher Lee Smith. “That biological unfairness doesn’t go away because of what someone believes about gender identity. All girls deserve the chance to compete on a level playing field.”

2 Ohio State football players dismissed amid rape charges
COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Two Ohio State University football players were kicked off the team Wednesday after being charged with rape and kidnapping. Defensive backs Amir Riep and Jahsen Wint, both 21, were booked into jail

earlier in the day after they were charged with sexually assaulting a woman on Feb. 4 at the players’ shared apartment. “I am not making any statement on the criminal charges, but it is clear they did not live up to our standards and my expectations,” coach Ryan Day said in a statement. “The athletics department will make sure they both continue to have access to the health and well-being resources available to students and student-athletes.” Day said he would not comment further on the case. The men were scheduled to be arraigned Thursday morning. It was not immediately clear whether they had attorneys.





PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-HSEM-058

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 02, 2020
TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“PURCHASE, DELIVERY, & INSTALLATION OF CNMI ALL HAZARDS MASS WARNING ALERT AT THREE (3) PRE-IDENTIFIED SITES ON SAIPAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, HOMELAND SECURITY & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.



MANDATORY PRE-BID & SITE TOUR IS SCHEDULED ON **FEBRUARY 21, 2020 AT 08:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME**. ALL INTERESTED BIDDERS SHALL MEET WITH MR. JAMES RABAUULIMAN & MR. JONATHAN VILLAGOMEZ AT THE OFFICE OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CENTER LOCATED IN CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **GERALD J. DELOEN GUERRERO**
SPECIAL ASSISTANT, HSEM

/s/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING

for
Li Chen

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Li Chen is proposing to occupy a structure to operate a Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as “Bed & Breakfast” and is permitted in the district as Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No 017 D 08 in China Town. This area is zoned as Village Residential.


A public hearing will be held on:

Date : February 25, 2020
Time : 5:00 pm
Place : Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-purpose Center Building Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 24, 2020. Please send written comments via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ **Mariano Taitano, Chairman**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Early Intervention Program

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT

Pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, & GEPA, the Public School System Early Intervention Program is required to provide at least 60 days prior to submission of grant applications for funds, a 60 day circulation notice with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period and provide an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, to provide comments.

DUE TO THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON MAY 1, 2020



60-Day Public Circulation Period: February 18, 2020 to April 17, 2020
30-Day Public Comment Period: February 25, 2020 to March 25, 2020

Hard copies of the Grant Applications are available from Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm at the following location:

Children’s Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) in Garapan (670) 664-4841

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-4846, hand delivered to the Children’s Developmental Assistance Center located in Garapan or phone your comments into Children’s Developmental Assistance Center: (670) 664-4841.

For more information, please contact Robin L. Palacios, Director, Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4841.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: DPW20-RFP-004

SUBMISSION DATE: December 17, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Engineering and Design Related Services for Route 317 (Gualo Rai Road) Improvements, Saipan”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A Mandatory PRE-PROPOSAL Conference WILL BE HELD ON **February 25, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONFERENCE ROOM 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Office, Saipan.

QUESTIONS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS March 10, 2020**. THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ANSWERED WITHIN THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS AND WILL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/s/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID
(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)
NMHC IFB 2020-007

BID SUBMISSION DATE: March 06, 2020 TIME: 10:30 AM

Website Design for the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

Project package will be available on February 14, 2020, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. The bid package can also be obtained online at www.nmhcgov.net titled Public Notice/Announcements

The provisions of the CNMI Procurement regulations, NMIAC 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A **Mandatory Pre-Bid conference** will be held at 10:00 a.m. on February 21, 2020, at the NMHC Central Office Conference Room located in Garapan. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ **Vinney Atalig-Hocog**
Chairman,
NMHC Board of Directors

/s/ **Francisco C. Aguon**
Acting Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Asia

Fall in new cases raises hope in virus outbreak in China

BEIJING (AP)—The number of new cases of the coronavirus in China dropped for a second straight day, health officials said Wednesday in a possible glimmer of hope amid the outbreak that has infected over 45,000 people worldwide and killed more than 1,100.

Dr. Mike Ryan, the head of emergencies for the World Health Organization, said it is “way too early to try to predict the beginning of the end”

of the crisis in China. But he said: “The stabilization in cases in the last number of days is very reassuring and it is to a great extent the result of the huge public health operation in China.”

China has locked down an unprecedented 60 million people in an effort to curb the spread of the virus, which has hit hardest in the city of Wuhan and surrounding Hubei province.

The country’s National

Health Commission said 2,015 new cases were counted on Tuesday, the second straight daily decline and down from nearly 3,900 a week ago. Commission spokesman Mi Feng said the situation is still grim but “we have seen some positive changes.”

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in Geneva that the numbers “must be interpreted with extreme caution,” adding: “This outbreak could

still go in any direction.” At the same time, he noted that the number of other countries reporting cases—about two dozen—has not changed since Feb. 4.

All but one of the deaths recorded so far have been in China, as have more than 99% of all reported infections

in the world.

“In principle at the moment, there’s no evidence out there that this virus is out there causing efficient community transmission in other countries,” Ryan said. “We have a window of opportunity to shut this virus down.”

At the end of a two-day

meeting aimed at speeding the development of new tests, drugs and vaccines for the new virus, WHO said scientists had agreed upon a set of global research priorities but warned it could still take considerable time before any licensed products might be available.

Japan has 44 more cases of COVID-19 on quarantined ship

TOKYO (AP)—Japan’s health ministry said Thursday 44 more people on a cruise ship quarantined near Tokyo have tested positive for the virus that causes the new disease known as COVID-19.

The ship, which is still carrying more than 3,500 passengers and crewmembers, has 218 people infected with the virus out of 713 people tested since the ship returned to the Yokohama Port on Feb. 3.

In all, Japan has 247 confirmed cases of the new dis-

ease that apparently started in Wuhan, a city in central China, in December.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato told reporters that five of the patients sent to hospitals earlier have severe symptoms, are on artificial respirators or under intensive care.

2nd case of new coronavirus confirmed among China evacuees

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A second case of novel coronavirus has been confirmed in the U.S. among evacuees from China, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion announced Wednesday.

The person was aboard a flight from the city of Wuhan that arrived at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in Southern California last week, the CDC said.

The patient was in isolation at a San Diego hospital, UC San Diego Health confirmed.

Also in isolation is a woman who was mistakenly released because of a mislabeled sample that hadn’t been tested for coronavirus. She was returned to the hospital on Monday after testing positive for the virus.

A third person whose test results are pending also is hospitalized.



PORT CALL

The MS *Westerdam*, owned by Holland America Line, drops anchor off a port of Sihanoukville, Cambodia, Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020. The cruise ship, turned away by other Asian and Pacific governments due to virus fears, was allowed to anchor Thursday off Cambodia, which is checking the health of its 2,200 passengers and crew. Holland America Line said the ship has been turned away by the Philippines, Taiwan, Japan and Thailand, though its operator said no cases of the disease have been confirmed among its passengers and crew.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 20-01 United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

Information Technology Security Officer

Permanent, Full-Time Position - Location: SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
Starting grade: CL-27 Step 1 \$57,670, to CL-28 Step 25 \$86,403, depending on qualifications.
(Advanced starting grade above CL-28 Step 25 may be available with exceptional qualifications.)
Opening Date: February 3, 2020 • Applications received by February 21, 2020 will be given priority.

Position Overview:

The Information Technology Security Officer (ITSO) develops Information Technology security policy to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of systems, networks, and data; protected from unauthorized intrusion. The ITSO is responsible for implementing local policies that comply with national IT security standards. At the advanced (CL-28) level the ITSO develops high-level documentation and presentations of security policy, and serves as a team lead to fulfill security objectives. This position reports to the Information Services Manager. Complete position description is available upon request, or via Internet at <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov>. This position includes full federal employment benefits, with paid leave and holidays, health insurance, life insurance and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:

High School graduate with two years of specialized experience in a field closely related to these duties, or a bachelor's degree with honors or distinction, or completion of one or more years graduate study in a field closely related to the subject matter of this position; and holder of CompTIA "A+" or equivalent certification. Additional preference will be given for college graduation, advanced work experience directly in this field, and for holders of CompTIA "Networks+", "Security+", "CASP+" or equivalent certifications in the fields of network management and IT security. Applicants should demonstrate sound ethics and judgment, and have superior communication skills.

Citizenship Requirement:

Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the U.S.

Notice to Applicants:

Excepted service appointments are “at will” and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees are subject to a background investigation and suitability determination, and updated background investigations every five years. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct deposit of pay is required.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant is required to submit a Cover Letter, Resume, and an AO-78 application form. AO-78 forms are on the Internet at: <http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov> or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Position is open until filled; applications received by February 21, 2020 will be given priority.

Deliver signed applications to:

Clerk of Court
United States District Court
for the Northern Mariana Islands
2nd Floor Horiguchi Bldg, Garapan, Saipan

Or, email signed applications to:

HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 20-031

Opening Date: January 29, 2020
Closing Date: **UNTIL FILLED**

CHIEF ENGINEER, P.E.

Duties: The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is a government utility providing power and water utilities to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota and wastewater utility to the island of Saipan. The incumbent of this position is under the overall supervision of the Deputy Executive Director (Water and Waste Water) or his/her designee. The duties and responsibilities are as follows: Coordinates and meets with other divisional sections and corporate divisions to coordinate activities and projects. Supervises engineering support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work, conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staffs are trained; and, making, hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Performs project management activities to include preparing reports, memorandums and recommendations; developing scope of work, providing technical reviews; surveying for projects, evaluating proposals, monitoring project process, approving payment, and, recommending award of projects. Prepares engineering designs, plans and specifications, collects data and performs research. Troubleshoots systems and equipment. Reviews work performed by engineers. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required by CUC and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CUC is under a Stipulated order of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case 08-0051 filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands.

LOCATION	: Water & Wastewater, Engineering Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands USA. (Saipan has a population of about 50K. It is adjacent to Asia and about a 3-hour flight south of Tokyo. It is about 100 miles north of the US Territory of Guam)
SALARY	: Starting: \$100,000.00 Per Annum (Commensurate with Qualifications and Experience, Exempt). If hired from outside the Northern Mariana Islands, terms and conditions of the relocation cost will be negotiated. However, the accommodations shall not exceed \$5,000 for moving to the islands and shall not exceed \$5,000 for moving away from the islands.
CONTRACT POSITIONS	: Two (2) years, subject to renewal : One (1)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Master's Degree in Civil, Mechanical, or Electrical Engineering. Registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical or electrical branch; Experience of ten (10) or more years as a professional engineer. **Demonstrate the following:** Proven management and communication skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Competency and proficiency in overseeing major drinking water and wastewater systems during the periods of planning, design, construction, and operation of drinking water systems' production, treatment, and distribution, and in wastewater treatment, collection and conveyance systems. **Knowledge of:** Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Construction principles; Engineering principles and practices. **Skill in:** Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Managing multiple projects; Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules and regulations; Interpreting drawings; Preparing a variety of technical report and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Must have a U.S. driver's license. Applicants may be tested. Subject to a pre-employment drug screening.

You may submit your completed CUC Employment Application and resume at the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota can drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration office. Application and resume can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A. | Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Asia

US troops clash with pro-government group in northeast Syria

DAMASCUS (AP)—A Syrian was killed and another was wounded when government supporters attacked American troops and tried to block their way as their convoy drove through an army checkpoint in northeastern Syria, prompting a rare clash, state media and activists reported.

The U.S. military said its force came under fire, and that troops responded in self-defense. It said an investigation of the incident was underway.

Syrian state-run media said the man killed was a civilian and that he was among residents of a village east of the town of Qamishli who had gathered at the checkpoint and pelted the U.S. convoy with stones.

A video posted on state news agency SANA's website showed angry men firing small arms at a convoy of several armored U.S. vehicles flying the U.S. flag. Some residents pelted the convoy with stones, while another dumped a bucket full of dirt on the back of one vehicle.

In one of the worst incidents of violence against U.S. troops deployed in northeastern Syria, a small fire appears to ignite on an armored vehicle, apparently from fire bombs lobbed at the convoy. U.S. soldiers were seen standing in the middle of the melee, trying to disperse the crowd.

Other videos showed another vehicle stuck in the dirt, apparently having veered into a ditch, while another had a flat tire. In one video, a resident walked up to U.S. soldiers at one of the vehicles, holding a U.S.



AP
In this frame grab from video, Russian, Syrian and others gather next to an American military convoy stuck in the village of Khirbet Ammu, east of Qamishli city, Syria, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020.

The Syrian war, now in its ninth year, has pulled in international players including the U.S., Russia and Turkey. Russia has supported Assad's government, while Turkey is the rebels' main backer.

Hundreds of U.S. troops are stationed in northeastern Syria, working with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces to fight against the Islamic State group. The U.S. carries out patrols in northeastern Syria, but it was not immediately clear why the convoy drove into a government-controlled area Wednesday.

The clash marked a rare confrontation involving U.S. and Syrian troops in the crowded region where Russian forces are also deployed and was certain to escalate tensions.

At one point during the incident, U.S., Russian and Syrian flags could be seen next to each other, reflecting the complicated terrain in northeastern Syria. Some reports said a Russian convoy arrived on the scene to defuse the tension.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said residents and armed pro-government militiamen in Khirbet Ammu blocked the path of a U.S. convoy. The militia fired in the air, prompting the American troops to fire smoke bombs. Tension escalated and U.S. troops killed one person, the Observatory said.

The Observatory, which has a network of activists on the ground, said it was not clear if the person killed was a civilian or a militia member. The Observatory also said a Russian convoy arrived on the scene to defuse the tension.

The Idlib offensive has also triggered clashes between Syrian and Turkish troops in which 13 Turkish soldiers have died in one week.

flag, screaming: "What do you want from our country? What is your business here?" A soldier tells the shouting man to "back off."

At that point, American troops fired live ammunition and smoke bombs at the residents, the reports said.

A U.S. military spokesman said coalition forces conducting a patrol near Qamishli encountered a checkpoint occupied by pro-Syrian government forces who ignored a series of warnings by coalition troops to de-escalate the situation. The patrol

came under small-arms fire from unknown individuals, coalition spokesman Myles Caggins said, adding that coalition troops returned fire in self-defense.

"The situation was de-escalated and is under investigation," he said in a statement. Air Force Lt. Col. Carla Gleason, traveling with the U.S. defense secretary in Brussels, said no Americans were killed in the incident.

Asked about the incident, U.S. Secretary of Defense Mark Esper said in Brussels he was told there was an "altercation," without providing details.

"As far as I know today's incident did not involve the Russians," he said.

In other violence in the country's northwest, Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces continued their advance in Idlib and Aleppo provinces near the border with Turkey. They took full control of a strategic highway that runs through the rebel-held territory and links the capital to northern Syria. The M5 highway had been

under opposition control for most of the war.

Russia's Defense Ministry said in a statement that Syrian troops fully cleared the M5.

"Syria's most important transport artery—the M5 highway linking the blocked northern capital of Aleppo with Hama, Homs and Damascus in the south—has been freed from terrorists," the statement said.

With support from Russia, Syrian troops have been on the offensive for weeks in Idlib and parts of nearby Aleppo provinces, unleashing a humanitarian crisis with 700,000 people fleeing their homes and surging north toward the Turkish border.

The U.N. human rights office in Geneva recorded incidents between Feb. 1-10 in which at least 85 civilians were killed, including 20 women and 27 children with most casualties in the so-called "de-escalation area" in Idlib, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Wednesday.

Official: Puerto Rico govt loses \$2.6M in phishing scam

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's government has lost more than \$2.6 million after falling for an email phishing scam, according to a senior official.

The finance director of the island's Industrial Development Company, Rubén Rivera, said in a complaint filed to police Wednesday that the agency sent the money to a fraudulent account.

lent account.

Rivera said the government agency transferred the money on Jan. 17 after receiving an email that alleged a change to a banking account tied to remittance payments, according to a police statement.

It's unclear whether officials have been able to recover any of the money and what impact the financial loss

has on the government agency.

The situation comes as the U.S. territory remains mired in a 13-year recession that has in part forced the government to cut back on some services.

Police did not return calls for comment. Maura Rios, a spokeswoman for the Industrial Development Company, said there was no immediate comment.

UN: Congo's Ebola outbreak slows but still global emergency

GENEVA (AP)—The World Health Organization said although signs are now "extremely positive" in Congo that the Ebola outbreak is winding down, the epidemic remains a global health emergency.

To date, Ebola has killed more than 2,200 people in Congo, making it the second-deadliest epidemic in history. The decision to maintain WHO's global emergency declaration for Ebola came after a meeting Wednesday

of WHO's Ebola expert committee.

"As long as there is a single case of Ebola in an area as insecure and unstable as eastern (Congo), the potential remains for a much larger epidemic," said WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

Much of the outbreak has struck regions of Congo described as war zones and health workers have been under repeated attacks from numerous rebel groups and from communi-

ties wary of international aid workers.

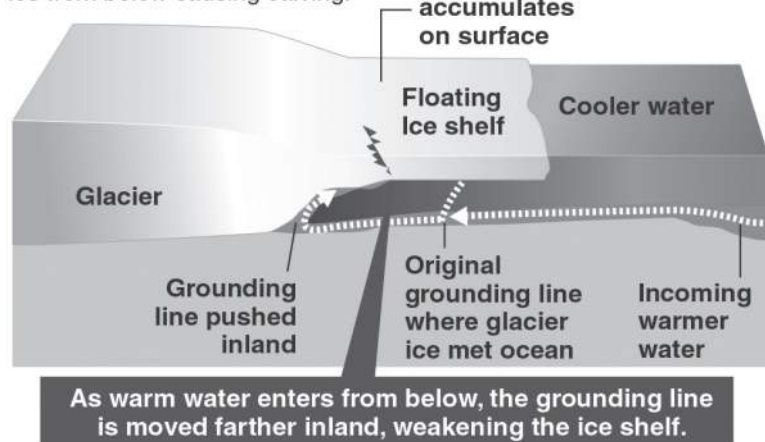
Tedros said he hoped that by the time the Ebola expert group meets again—likely within three months—that they will be able to declare an end to the Ebola epidemic. He said he would be travelling to Congo later this week to meet with the country's president and senior government officials to discuss ways to strengthen the country's health care system.

120 square-mile iceberg splits from Antarctica

The European Space Agency's satellites spotted a significant breakup, or calving event, underway on Pine Island Glacier's floating ice shelf. This glacier along with its neighbors are a massive cache of frozen water, one that would raise global sea levels by four feet if it were all to spill into the sea.

Melting from above and below

Glaciers flow out from the land over the ocean, with their front edges afloat; as the atmosphere warms up, more water accumulates on the surface of the ice while warm water weakens the ice from below causing calving.



Source: projectmidas.org, NASA, AP, nationalgeographic.com
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man who swam to US from Canada to deliver books is released

DETROIT (AP)—A man who said he swam across the Detroit River from Canada to try to deliver handmade books before Christmas won his release Tuesday after two months in U.S. custody. Christopher Sagajllo, 56, was arrested in December after crossing the river in a wetsuit and landing at a steel company’s property on Zug Island, just south of Detroit. U.S. District Judge Linda Parker sentenced Sagajllo to time served, clearing his return to St. Catharines, Ontario, where the British native is a permanent Canadian resident. “He is not a dangerous individual,” defense attorney Benton Martin said. Sagajllo, 56, declined to speak in court. But he explained in a letter why he chose a risky way to get into the U.S. Sagajllo said he was desperate after being turned away days earlier at the border in Niagara Falls, New York. U.S. authorities said he was ineligible because he had been deported to the United Kingdom in 2010 after overstaying a visit by seven years. Sagajllo said he had followed his reli-

gious faith and made books in silk bags. “Four of the recipients were in the United States, and I believed they needed to be delivered before Christmas. ... I believed I needed to swim across. I felt that if I did not do what was, I believe, required of me, that something terrible would happen to me in the future,” he wrote. Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Fairchild said the government had no objection to returning Sagajllo to Canada after weeks in custody.

Field of dreams: Marriage proposal shows up on Google Maps

BERLIN (AP)—A German man’s marriage proposal got a bigger audience than he had planned, after it showed up on an aerial picture used by Google Maps. The German news agency dpa reported Wednesday that 32-year-old part-time farmer Steffen Schwarz used a machine to plant a field of corn in such a way that the gaps spelled out the words “Do you want to marry me?” Schwarz says he got his girlfriend to fly a drone over the field last May in Huettenberg, central Germany, revealing the romantic mes-

sage. She said yes. He told dpa he hadn’t intended or expected the image to appear on Google’s popular mapping service until an aunt in Canada pointed it out to him. Schwarz and his fiancée plan to marry in June.

‘Color us red’: Target sorry for ‘Minnesota Badgers’ onesie

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Target admits a onesie it carried in some stores misidentified the mascot for the largest university in its home state. The Minneapolis-based retail giant apologized to University of Minnesota Golden Gophers fans Tuesday for carrying a maroon onesie with the words “Minnesota Badgers,” the nickname of Big Ten rival Wisconsin. The fan website GopherHole.com tweeted a photo from a woman who noticed the onesies while shopping Sunday at a Target in Minneapolis. “Color us red,” Target said in a statement. “As a Minnesota-based company, we know we are home to the Gophers.” Kileigh Carpenter, a former University of Minnesota employee who spotted the onesie, told the Star Tribune she was “happy to see both fan bases unite.”

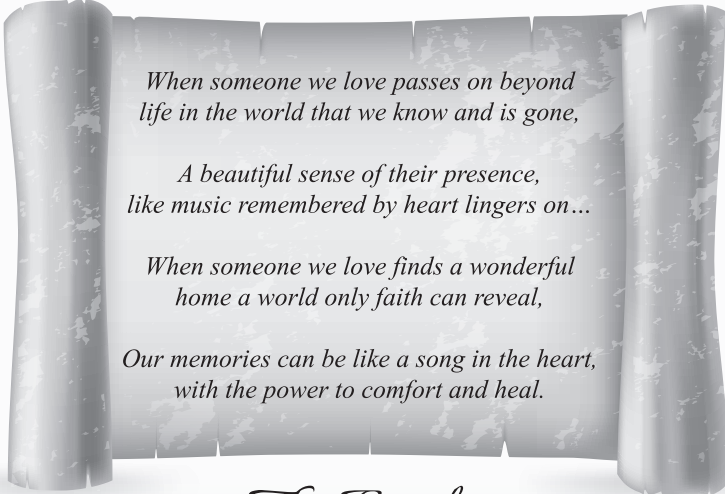
MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION



We, the family of

† Pedro Limes Pua

Give our praise to God and rejoice that our loved one now rests in the love and peace of His embrace. Words cannot adequately express our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our friends, family, Father Jason, Techa Mrs. Angie Igineof-Mangerero, and church choir for all the kind words of comfort and for taking the time to join us in the celebration of Eucharist in honor of our beloved father and grandfather, †Pedro Limes Pua. Your prayers, love, support and condolences helped us tremendously during this most difficult time, giving us courage and strength to accept the will of God no matter how painful and difficult. Know that you are treasured in our hearts and will be remembered in our thought and prayers.



The Family

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

† Kimberly Ann Diaz Takai

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS SESA

January 27, 1985 - February 24, 2019



We, the family would like to invite all our relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our beloved unto eternal life.

Mass of intention will be celebrated daily as follows.

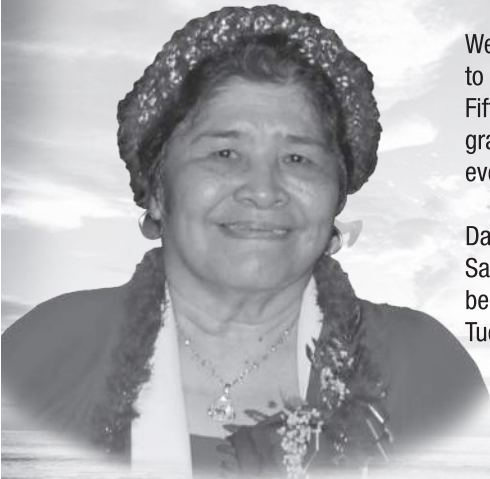
February 16, 2020	Sunday	6am	St. Jude Church
February 17, 2020	Monday	6pm	St. Jude Church
February 18, 2020	Tuesday	6pm	San Antonio Church
February 19, 2020	Wednesday	6pm	San Antonio Church
February 20, 2020	Thursday	6pm	St. Jude Church
February 21, 2020	Friday	6pm	St. Jude Church
February 22, 2020	Saturday	6pm	St. Jude Church
February 23, 2020	Sunday	6am	St. Jude Church
February 24, 2020	Monday	6pm	St. Jude Church

On the final day, Tuesday, February 25th, rosary will be prayed right after mass, at the Takai residence in As Lito.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated
Edwin Tudela Takai, Children and Family

FIFTH YEAR DEATH ANNIVERSARY

† Rosa Benavente Royal



We, the family, invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Fifth Year Anniversary of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother to her everlasting life in paradise.

Daily mass of intention will be celebrated at Saint Jude Church & San Antonio Church beginning Monday, February 17, 2020 through Tuesday, February 25, 2020.

Saint Jude Church:
Monday, Thursday, Friday – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 6:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

San Antonio Church:
Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday – 6:00 p.m.

On the last day, Tuesday, February 25, 2020, the Rosary will be said at 5:30 p.m. before the Eucharistic celebration at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Jude Church. Dinner will follow immediately at the residence of Rufin & Thelma Inos in As-Perdido.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Un'Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen I Famagu'on yan Familia

Science & Technology

New early-warning earthquake app features a shaking countdown

By RONG-GONG LIN II
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—A new earthquake early-warning app for smartphones has been released, offering users across California the ability to see a countdown before shaking arrives.

Available for iOS and Android phones, QuakeAlertUSA also offers the ability for phone owners to individually tailor when the app is triggered—for weak, light or moderate shaking.

The app by Santa Monica-based Early Warning Labs uses the same data source as the other two apps that have been available—the U.S. Geological Survey's ShakeAlert system, powered by hundreds of earthquake sensors across California. Two other apps are available for earthquake early warning but don't offer countdowns or the ability to ignore warnings for weak and light shaking; they are the University of California, Berkeley's MyShake app, which offers statewide coverage, and the city of Los Angeles' ShakeAlertLA app for users physically in Los Angeles County.

California authorities have also begun to issue alerts via text message, through the Amber Alert-style Wireless Emergency System. Those alerts do not require downloading an app or having a smartphone to receive the apps, but that system may be slower than the apps and is set to go off for only more relatively stronger shaking than the smartphone apps.

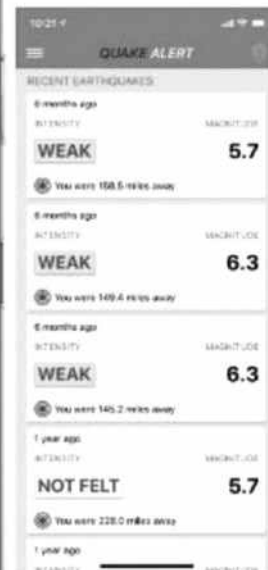
The mildest shaking that can trigger an alert for QuakeAlertUSA's app is weak shaking, or Level 3 on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale, defined as felt quite noticeably by people indoors, especially on upper floors of a building, and can cause standing motor rocks to slightly rock. Some might think the shaking is resulting from the vibrations felt when a heavy truck passes.

This threshold is the same used by ShakeAlertLA and MyShake.

Users of the QuakeAlertUSA can also set the alarm to ring only for more substantial shaking, such as one that's light, or Level 4 for the intensity scale, in which many people feel shaking indoors, and the shaking disturbs dishes, windows and doors, causing walls to make

cracking sounds. This is the same threshold used by the state in activating earthquake early warnings through text message.

Finally, users can set the minimum threshold to moderate shaking, or intensity Level 5—enough to awaken many people, break dishes and windows, overturn un-



USGS' ShakeAlert system to even consider send out warnings to devices that are seeing at least weak shaking, or Level 3 on the intensity scale.

In recent months, slight shaking has triggered alerts in sparsely populated areas. In December, a magnitude 4.3 earthquake ruptured in the mountains between the Central Coast and San Joaquin Valley, causing more than 40 people to receive an alarm. (The app sent out an alert because the initial calculation of the earthquake came in at magnitude 4.8, above the minimum magnitude 4.5 threshold for the event to be considered for a warning.)

And in January, a magnitude 4.6 earthquake in the Mojave Desert caused an earthquake early warning to be sent out by text message over the Wireless Emergency Alert system, directed toward users in a projected zone of light or moderate shaking in a sparsely populated area north of the Barstow area and south of Death Valley National Park.

stable objects and stop pendulum clocks.

"It's exciting," said Josh Bashium, founder and CEO

of Early Warning Labs, of the release of the app. "Our main goal is to save lives."

Earthquakes need to be at least a magnitude 4.5 for the

Cleaning out iPhone trash to save memory

Q: I use the mail app on my iPhone for my "q.com" e-mail account from CenturyLink. But this mail account uses more than 4 gigabytes of memory on my phone; I can't download the latest software updates for lack of storage space. This happens even though I empty my "trash" and "sent" e-mails twice a day, and never keep more than 10 e-mails in my inbox. What's wrong?

A: Your iPhone is probably collecting mail for several reasons, but you can fix them all.

In addition to emptying your "trash" and "sent" folders, you also need to empty your "junk" mail folder (where obvious spam is automatically routed.) Because most of this spam never reached your inbox, it's easy to forget about it. Go to the junk folder, click edit, click "select all" and then click "delete."

You also need to be sure that when you "delete" mail from your inbox, it's really going to the "trash" folder. Apple confused this issue last year when it responded to complaints that position of the icons at the bottom of an e-mail—"reply" (an arrow) and "delete" (a trash can)—had been reversed, causing people in a hurry to delete e-mails they meant to reply to (see tinyurl.com/y4outts5). Apple "solved" the problem by replacing the trash can icon at the bottom of an

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

e-mail with the archiving icon (a packing box.) Now if someone touches the wrong icon, the worst that can happen is that e-mail is sent to the "all mail" folder, where it stays indefinitely.

The trash can and packing-box icons look alike and I suspect you have been accidentally archiving mail that you meant to delete. You can adjust for the change by using one of two ways to delete e-mail from your inbox:

■ Delete a single e-mail: View the e-mail, click the arrow key at the bottom of the screen, and in the resulting menu click "trash message."

■ Delete multiple e-mails: Select "edit" at the top of the inbox and check the e-mails you want to delete. At the bottom of the screen, select "move," and in the resulting menu click "trash."

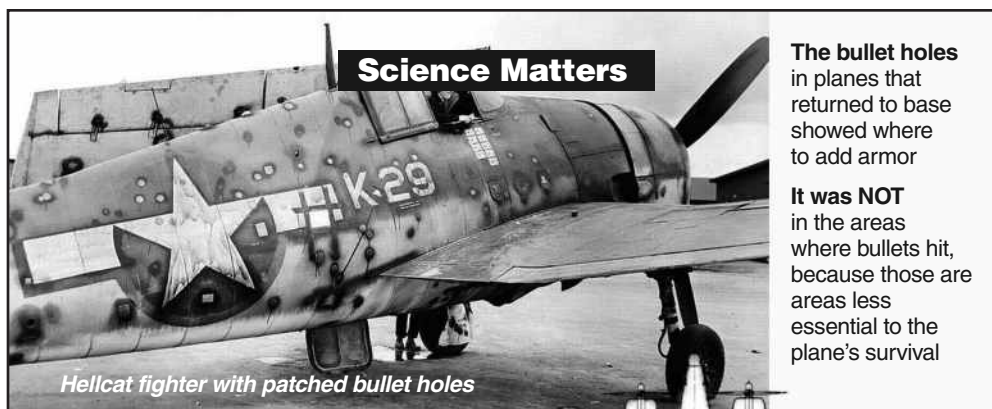
Now go through your "all mail" folder and determine which saved e-mails you want to delete. ("All mail" works a bit differently: To delete multiple e-mails using the second method above, select unwanted

ed e-mails and click "trash" at the bottom of the screen.) Pruning the "all mail" folder should sharply reduce your stored e-mail.

Q: I've watched iPhone owners use the AirDrop feature to wirelessly send photos and videos to each other almost instantly. My friend and I have Android phones that use NFC (near field communication), a wireless technology, to do the same thing, but it's pitifully slow, taking minutes per picture. Is there an equivalent of the AirDrop feature for Android phones?

A: No. Google reportedly is creating a similar Android feature called Nearby Sharing.

Until that happens, you are stuck with slow transfer speeds between phones. The Android phone version of NFC reaches only a few inches and transfers data at about half a megabit a second between two phones. The iPhone's AirDrop has a range of about 30 feet and moves data between two iPhones at speeds up to 30 megabits.



Warplanes shot full of holes show the way to essential DNA

A mathematician studying damaged Navy planes in World War II found a principle that today explains where on the DNA chain dangerous alterations (mutations) happen.



Hungarian mathematician Abraham Wald

'Survival bias,' a logical error

Wald famously invoked the principles of **survival bias**. Armor should be put where bullet damage was **not** seen, he reasoned, since those planes had returned from their missions in spite of being hit in non-critical areas.

The bullet holes in planes that returned to base showed where to add armor

It was NOT in the areas where bullets hit, because those are areas less essential to the plane's survival

In surviving planes, bullets missed the engines, cockpit and fuel tanks

Planes hit in critical areas went down and could not return to be analyzed

Genetic bullet holes and essential genes

Using similar logic, researchers looked at the DNA of 123,000 humans, looking for the essential parts of the genome

They searched for parts of the DNA that had NOT been changed by random modifications (mutations)

Parts of genome with changes are not critical to life

Different people's DNA

Parts of genome with no changes are critical spots

Source: James M. Havrilla of University of Utah; Nature journal; US Navy; University of St. Andrews, Scotland (Wald photo)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style



AP
Siba, the standard poodle, competes for Best in Show during the 144th Westminster Kennel Club dog show, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020, in New York.

Poodle perfection: Siba wins best in show at Westminster

hair and a shaved backside.

"I always say, don't let the haircut fool you. This is a smart, athletic, active dog that was originally developed in Germany as a water retrieving dog," longtime dog expert David Frei said.

With a more simple trim, he figured, "the world could unabashedly root for them. In the meantime, I will anyway."

Poodles come in three sizes, and they've done just fine at Westminster. Standards have won best in show five times, miniatures three and toys twice.

Siba was showing for the last time, set to retire after this event.

"She had the something extra at a young age," Murray-Clas said.

Longtime handler Clint Livingston said he saw Siba two years ago at a show in York, Pennsylvania, and predicted a great future.

"I fell in love with her," Livingston said.

He also understands the poodle predicament.

"They've been glamorized and for them, it's a beauty pageant," he said. "But underneath all that hair and everything, there's structure and function."

Congrats, Siba

The 2020 Westminster Dog Show, Best in Show, was awarded to Siba, a Standard Poodle



"Siba", winner of Best in Show at the 144th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden in New York, NY

- Breed: Standard Poodle
- Sex: Female
- Age: 3
- Handler: Chrystal Murray-Clas
- Owners: Connie Unger and William Lee.

POODLE (STANDARD): Poodles come in three size varieties: Standards should be more than 15 inches tall at the shoulder. The breed originated as a duck hunter in Germany, where the word "pudelin" refers to splashing in water. The Standard Poodle began its development as a retrieving water dog more than 400 years ago.

Source: AP, AKC, The Westminster Kennel Club, Getty
Graphic: Staff, TNS

NEW YORK (AP)—Primped and poised, Siba the standard poodle owned the ring.

Even with the crowd at Madison Square Garden chanting for a popular golden retriever, the statuesque Siba strutted off with best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club on Tuesday night.

Adorned with black puffs and pompoms, the 3-year-old Siba was the absolute picture of what many see as the epitome of a show dog.

Not everyone shared that view. As judge Bob Slay studied Siba in the best-of-seven final ring, a fan shouted out: "No way, Slay, no way!"

Slay stuck by what he saw. "She's beautiful and has that something," handler Chrystal Murray-Clas said.

Bourbon the whippet finished second. Daniel the golden retriever was clearly the crowd favorite—a golden has never won at Westminster—and fans chanted his name as Slay deliberated.

Bono the Havanaes, Wilma the boxer, Conrad the Shetland sheepdog, and Vinny the wire fox terrier also made the final grouping.

Poodles come in three sizes and this was the 10th time one of them has become America's top dog, the first since 2002. A standard last won in 1991.

Siba put on an entertaining performance in the nonsporting group judging Monday night, doing the downward dog yoga pose before circling the ring. A day later, she was again at her best.

She won't get much rest,

either. Siba was set to wake up early to hit the morning TV shows, eat lunch at famed Manhattan restaurant Sardi's, pose on the observation deck of the Empire State Building and perhaps walk onto the stage at Broadway musical "Beetlejuice."

The Westminster winner receives no prize money in a sport where owners can spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on their pet. Instead, the reward is a silver bowl, lucrative breeding rights and a lifetime of bragging rights in dog lore.

And in canine competitions, the poodles often rule.

But this is true, too: In the world of dogdom, among all the beagles, retrievers and terriers, there's nothing that polarizes people like a poodle.

Especially the big standard size, with their fancy coifs that would put the supermodels now in town for Fashion Week to shame.

"I don't care for the cut. I understand it's for function, to keep their joints warm, but not for me," Carol Sebastian of Aberdeen, New Jersey, said earlier in the day.

Sitting with four of her spino-ne Italiano pals, snacking near Ring 1, Sebastian offered another view on the pooch pageant.

"I think if they cut the poodle in a different way, they'd have a lot more fans. They'd get beyond frou-frou."

Either way, Siba sure looks the part of the Park Avenue crowd, even though she's from Allentown, Pennsylvania—sleek, with shiny black

Blind date begins love story that has lasted for 55 years

DEAR ABBY: I met my lady on a blind date many years ago. When I knocked on the door, it opened and this beautiful girl was standing there. Thinking I could never be so lucky, I asked, "Is your sister home?" No. She was my date.

We dated for a few months, fell in love and got married. We have had a wonderful 55-year marriage, and it gets sweeter every day. We handle different opinions with courtesy and respect.

I'm 81 now, and hugging and kissing her fills my heart with warmth and happiness. The greatest joy in my life is to love and be loved. I wish everyone the same.

ECSTATIC IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ECSTATIC: Congratulations on 55 years of happiness. Thank you for sharing your love story with my readers and me. Today, I wish them—and you and your lovely wife—a very Happy Valentine's Day.

DEAR ABBY: My sister recently self-published a book that purportedly honors my mother's service in World War II. Her book is completely inaccurate. It is filled with romantic fantasy and historical errors, and cheapens my mother's real service with untruths.

My sister is now busy selling and promoting the book with interviews and book signings. My mother, if she were still alive, would be embarrassed and appalled. I don't want to cause a family feud, but I feel if I remain silent, I'm helping to per-

petuate something that is wrong on multiple levels. What, if anything, should I do?

READING A LOT INTO IT

DEAR READING: I am sure your late mother was an amazing woman whose story didn't need embroidering. It may be a blessing she isn't around to see what your sister has done to it. Because the book is now in print, it's too late to "stop the presses." If you try to discredit what was written, it will very likely cause a rift, and I don't recommend it. Wish your sister luck and cross your fingers that it won't become a bestseller.

DEAR ABBY: My brother lives in another state. He was never a good brother. He has always been self-centered, controlling and condescending. He is no longer in good health. Some time ago, he named me as his power of attorney for financial and health issues. I am elderly and have my own issues, so, should the need arise, it would be difficult for me to travel to where he is.

He has never been open, so I don't know who his health care providers are, who his banker or investment people are, etc., so, even if I were to go, I'd have no idea where to start to act on his behalf and according to his wishes. I don't even know what his wishes are, for that matter.

Because of his caustic personality, he has few friends and no family of his own. How do I resign as his power of attorney so there is no

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

assumption by anyone that I would be a responsible party for him?
UNABLE IN THE WEST

DEAR UNABLE: Discuss this with your attorney to be sure you have all your i's dotted and your t's crossed. Then write your brother a letter. Explain that because you have no information about his doctors, his wishes about end-of-life planning, his banker or investment adviser—plus the fact that your own health isn't the greatest—you hereby resign as his power of attorney. Send the letter via registered mail so he will have to sign for it, and there will be proof that your brother received it.

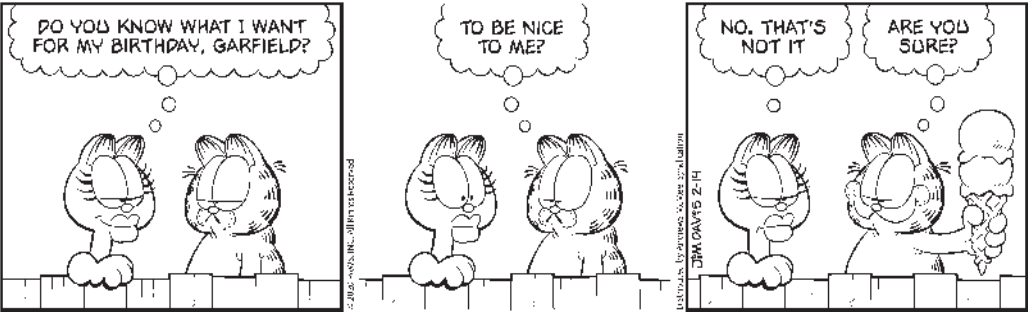
For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

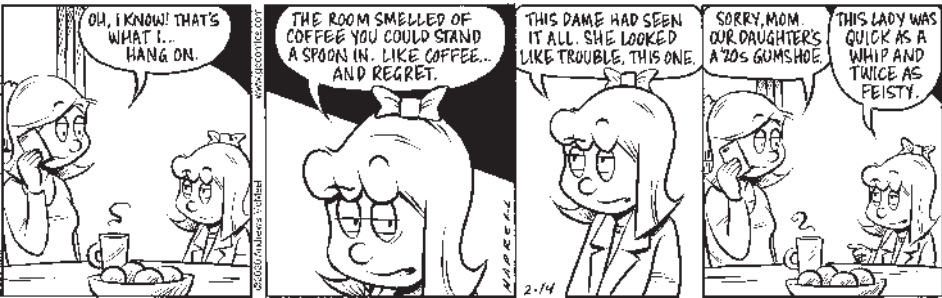
Calvin and Hobbes



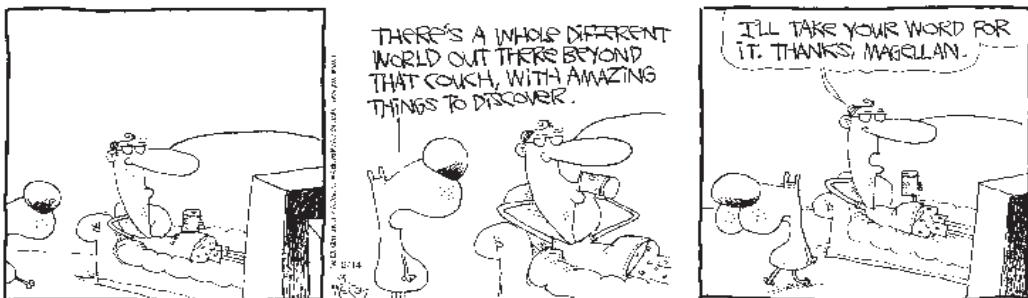
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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Fussess

6 Ewe's mate

9 Win — nose

12 Prepared to propose

13 Clean air org.

14 Rule, for short

15 Orange variety

16 Sweet-heart

18 "Jurassic Park" bird

20 Con

21 Yon maiden

23 Fall from grace

24 "Skyfall" singer

25 Walrus tooth

27 Abe Lincoln feature

29 Women's clothing size

31 Frozen spike

35 Slogan

37 Lighten

38 Relay stick

41 — -de-

43 Wish undone

44 Ms. Brock-ovich

45 Japanese entertainer

47 Cherished one

49 Domesticates

52 Toronto's prov.

53 Actress Adams

54 Beethoven's "Für —"

55 Mas' mates

56 Mao — -tung

57 Trite

DOWN

1 Ring decision

2 Switch positions

3 Most loved

4 Gymnast Korbust

5 Dance moves

6 Made over

7 On — with

8 Scratch the surface

9 Pickle juice

10 Streisand title role

11 Texas A&M student

17 Young Scot

19 Nepal's neighbor

21 NASCAR advertiser

22 Coloration

24 Rainbow shape

26 Japanese robe

28 Garlicky mayo

30 Heavy weight

32 Italian sweetie

33 Baton Rouge sch.

34 Shoe width

36 Make a colorful T-shirt

38 Jazz genre

39 Where the action is

40 Leans

42 — Park, Colorado

45 Jewels

46 Sentry's cry

48 Cistern

50 Immigrant's subj.

51 Observe

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 2-14

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Bledsoe, 48; Simon Pegg, 50; Meg Tilly, 60; Terry Gross, 69.

Happy Birthday: Choose resourcefulness over extravagance. A little will go a long way if you use your imagination. Be happy with what you have, and strive to achieve peace of mind. Don't feel you have to keep up with anyone else. Your only competition is yourself. Believe in yourself, and put your talents to work. Romance is on the rise. Your numbers are 3, 15, 23, 26, 32, 38, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get serious about simple details and ideas, and you will come up with something that brings you greater joy and prosperity. Interaction with a group that takes action and makes reforms will build confidence and enthusiasm. Address emotional matters. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You don't have to make a fuss to get attention. In fact, in doing so, you will get a negative response, making your life more difficult. Slide things past others reasonably and quietly. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Financial matters are featured. You will discover information that will help you fine-tune something you've been trying to achieve. Romance and travel will interact well together. Go in search of adventure. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone trying to help will inadvertently offend you. Know that whatever is said or done is because he or she cares enough to help you improve. Love is in the picture, but don't let it

cost you. You cannot buy someone's affection. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Resting, relaxing, being pampered and enforcing greater comfort should be mandatory. Changes you make to your surroundings will lift your spirits. Ask questions if you feel uncertain or confused, and you will get the response you require. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take on a new task, and you will feel good about what you accomplish. The people you love will be happy to tag along and share your success. A challenge will help bump up your earning potential. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't give in to temptation or overreact to what's going on around you. Make love, not war; plan outings and keep busy. Positive thoughts will bring good results. Recognize your talent, and master what you can do to be successful. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Make some changes, expand your interests and follow your heart. Determination and an industrious plan of attack will lead to good results. Enjoy trying something new and different, but don't let what you do put you in debt. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Live up to the promises you make. Exaggeration will get you into trouble. What you offer may get immediate gratification, but long-term, it will result in stress over what others expect of you. Don't do anything that might ruin your reputation. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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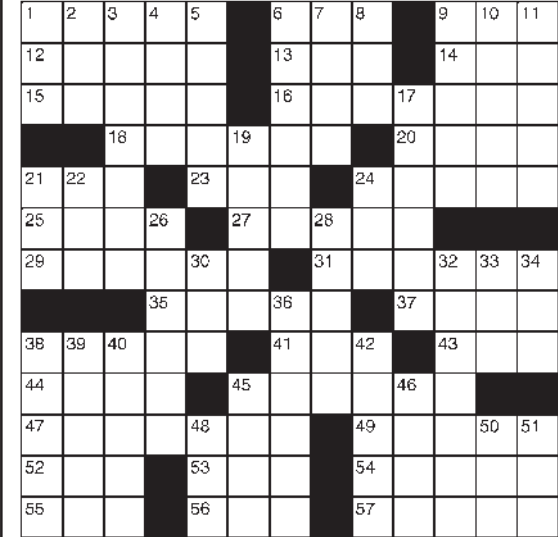
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone will be uneasy with your suggestions. Think matters through, look at every angle and listen to complaints. Consider how your intentions will influence the lives of the people around you. Act on behalf of everyone. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make your plan become reality. Turn whatever you do into a fun project, and it will be easier to come up with new ways to use your skills, experience and knowledge to bring in more cash. Set trends. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get serious about your future, partnership and professional direction. Make adjustments, amendments and promises that will help build a better future. Clear the air, and you'll be able to move forward without unwanted baggage. A partnership looks promising. *****

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, creative and flexible. You are serious, cautious and devoted.

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

VALENTINE DANCES Solution: 7 letters

T R U F F L E S O R I B B O N

E B F E S T I V E N U E P E H

S T A G E A K N A G I F T T A

F J U L R G N I W S N A O A T

L H A C L I I S O R O E N S

O G H Z D E P A O B B S S G W

W A L T Z A T L E O I T S O E

E B D I E E L L U R I T P W E

R A I T E A E Q P A A E L E T

S L Y T B C U R R T T A A D E

I L L R N E U C S A S M N D K

L R I A T S A P L L S E S I C

V O M E V O L U I K E R S N I

E O A H A P P Y T D R S O G T

R M F E B R U A R Y D N A C N

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Arch, Ballet, Balloon, Ballroom, Beauty, Booth, Bouquet, Candy, Celebrate, Craft, Cupid, Cute, Date, Dinner, Dress, Family, February, Festive, Flowers, Gift, Glee, Happy, Hats, Heart, Hugs, Jazz, Kiss, Love, Party, Petal, Pink, Plans, Red, Ribbon, Romance, Rose, Silver, Stage, Stars, Streamers, Surprise, Sweet, Swing, Talk, Tango, Ticket, Truffle, Venue, Waltz, Wedding

Yesterday's Answer: Gum

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Minimum Qualifications: Must be at least high school graduate; Must have at least 24 months of relevant work experience as an Accountant or Accounting Clerk; and Must know how to use accounting software programs.

Job Site: Delgadina Street, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

How to Apply: Submit or mail or email application, Resume, and credentials to:

PARK, YONG WOON
President
Dark Horse Corporation

Office Address: Delgadina Street, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 506568, Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: sjluv130@gmail.com
Telephone Number: (670) 234-5274

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2020

Opening date: February 12, 2020 Closing date: March 04, 2020

Positions:

- (1) Electrician (Saipan)
- (1) ARFF General Maintenance-I (Saipan)
- (1) Receptionist/Secretary (Saipan)
- (1) HR Specialist (Saipan)
- (1) Radio Operator/Weather Observer (Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 04, 2020**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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- 3-Liner **\$15**
- 5-Liner **\$24**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



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Angels' Stassi apologizes for Astros' sign-stealing scheme



TEMPE, Ariz. (AP)—Max Stassi

says he wishes he had done “the right thing” when he learned about the Houston Astros’ sign-stealing scheme late in their World Series championship season in 2017.

The former Astros catcher’s new teammates with the Los Angeles Angels also aren’t happy with their AL West rivals as they report to spring training.

Stassi apologized Wednesday for his minor part in the Astros’ cheating after he was recalled by the club in August 2017. Stassi played in just 14 games that year and didn’t participate in the postseason, yet still won a World Series title as part of their 40-man roster.

“It was wrong,” Stassi said. “I feel terrible. I think looking back, every single person that was a part of that team or in that clubhouse regrets what was going on, and if we could all go back, I’m sure we never even would have thought of the idea.”

Stassi said he was “surprised” to learn the extent of the Astros’ schemes when he joined the club late that season. He also said he was unaware of any sign-stealing by the Astros in subsequent seasons. Stassi was traded to Los Angeles late last season.

“I saw what was going on (in 2017),” said Stassi, who went up and down from the minors with Houston from 2013 until



AP
Los Angeles Angels catcher Max Stassi catches a pitch during spring training baseball practice, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020, in Tempe, Ariz.

2017. “When you’re a lower man on the totem pole, you just show up and you go out there and play. You apologize to those around the game, the people that were affected by it. The fans, coaches, especially the kids who look up to us. You’re supposed to set an ex-

ample and do the right thing, and we didn’t do that.”

Stassi didn’t specify whether he felt the cheating had helped him personally: “I don’t know if it technically helps. Everyone can use their own judgment. But it was wrong.”

Angels left-hander Andrew Heaney and right-hander Taylor Cole ripped the Astros when the Angels’ pitchers and catchers reported to spring training Wednesday. Heaney was profanely vehement in his criticisms of the Astros’ actions and their response after

being caught.

“They sure ... need to do more than what they already did,” Heaney said. “That was terrible. I understand they are going to go get their (story) in order and they are going to have their thing to say, and they are going to hide behind the commissioner’s report and whatever, but I don’t think that’s good enough.”

Cole, who has a 6.08 ERA in nine career appearances against Houston, admits he was upset immediately after hearing about the Astros’ elaborate cheating schemes.

“I’m a guy that has been up and down several times over the last couple of years, and when you face a team like these guys and you start to hear what has come out, it’s just affected a lot of people’s lives,” Cole said. “I knew the repercussions of that — what happened after some of those outings. We’ll just leave it at that.”

The Angels’ views have been echoed around baseball as teams report to work this week in Arizona and Florida.

Oakland manager Bob Melvin, whose Athletics won 97 games each of the past two seasons for second place in the AL West behind Houston, said the A’s made calls to Major League Baseball about their sign-stealing concerns.

“I think MLB has done the right thing to move forward and handle it how they’ve handled it,” Melvin said. “I don’t think anybody was too

happy about a lot of things that you’ve seen come out, and at some point in time we have to move past it.

“Nobody’s happy about it, whether it’s an individual, whether it’s a team, whether it’s the Yankees they were playing in the postseason, whether it was us, other teams in our division. I think everybody kind of was fed up with it. We move forward and hopefully it’s taken care of.”

Heaney has nine career starts against Houston, more than any opponent except the Texas Rangers, going 3-3 with a 3.28 ERA. He didn’t face the Astros in 2017 while recovering from Tommy John surgery.

“I’m not going to make excuses for those guys,” Heaney said. “I know how it is. You get caught up in something. I’m sure they look back now and say, ‘Oh (expletive), we really took that overboard.’ But I think that somebody in that locker room had to have enough insight to say, ‘This is not OK.’”

Heaney echoed other players’ acknowledgement that the Astros’ affinity for sign-stealing was a “poorly kept secret” in baseball. He also doesn’t think sign-stealing will be eradicated by the penalties given to Houston.

“I still don’t think we really know everything that happened,” Heaney said. “I don’t think necessarily everybody wants us to know everything that was going on. That’s the tough part.”

Red Sox prospect Jeter Downs has tough name to live up to

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Carrying one of the most hated sports names in Boston is already enough of a burden, so Jeter Downs won’t also try to be the guy who replaces Mookie Betts.

The former Dodgers prospect, who was named after Hall of Famer Derek Jeter by his Yankees-loving mother, was acquired in the deal that sent Betts to Los Angeles on the eve of spring training.

And he knew the question was coming.

“Obviously, I’m going to get bombarded with this whole name thing,” he said in the Red Sox clubhouse Wednesday before the team’s first formal workout of spring training. “It’s pretty cool. And I guess my mom, she knew what she was doing when she named me Jeter.”

The 21-year-old infielder was the No. 3 prospect in the Dodgers organization and the second son in his family. His older brother was named after their father, so when he was born, it was their mother’s turn.

“She just loved Jeter and

how he was and the way he played the game. So she gave me the name,” Jeter Downs said. “I obviously had the name, so I kind of had to be a fan of his. I idolize him — just the way he played, the way he went about the game and the things he did and stuff like that, how he was respected by every single team.

“I don’t care like what team you’re from,” Downs said. “It’s just cool to watch a guy like that play the game and grow, you know.”

Downs said he has never met his namesake, though he did pull up next to him at a stoplight once while on his way to work out. They connected through a friend and spoke on FaceTime for a few minutes.

“I idolized him my whole life,” Downs said. “So then finally, you get to meet him and talk to him a little bit—it was definitely special.”

The trade reunited Downs with his older brother, Jerry, a 15th-round pick by the Red Sox in 2015 who made it as far as Double-A last season. Playing on the same team

was something Jeter Downs would lie in bed and dream about, he said.

“I was playing catch with him and I was just like, ‘Wow, we’re wearing the same uniform.’ It’s pretty surreal that things have turned around this way,” he said. “We always mentioned, ‘Oh it would be pretty cool to play with you, or be on the same team with you.’ But you didn’t think of it that far. And now it’s come to fruition? It’s pretty interesting.”

A shortstop and second baseman who split time between Single- and Double-A last season, Jeter Downs came to the Red Sox with outfielder Alex Verdugo and minor league catcher Connor Wong for Betts and David Price. The deal was a salary dump for the Red Sox, who were willing to part with MVP and Cy Young winners to get under the collective bargaining tax threshold for 2020.

Downs was on his way to the Miami airport to fly to Dodgers camp in Glendale, Arizona, when he got word

that he should instead head across the state to the Red Sox complex in Fort Myers.

“It’s cool to be traded for arguably a top five player in the game,” he said. “But it doesn’t mean anything if I don’t go out and do my job. So I still think I’ve got to go out and perform, and play well and things can be talked about after.”

Downs hit .276 with 24 homers, 86 RBIs and 24 stolen bases last year. With shortstop Xander Bogaerts signed long term in Boston, Downs will try to work his way up to the majors at second base.

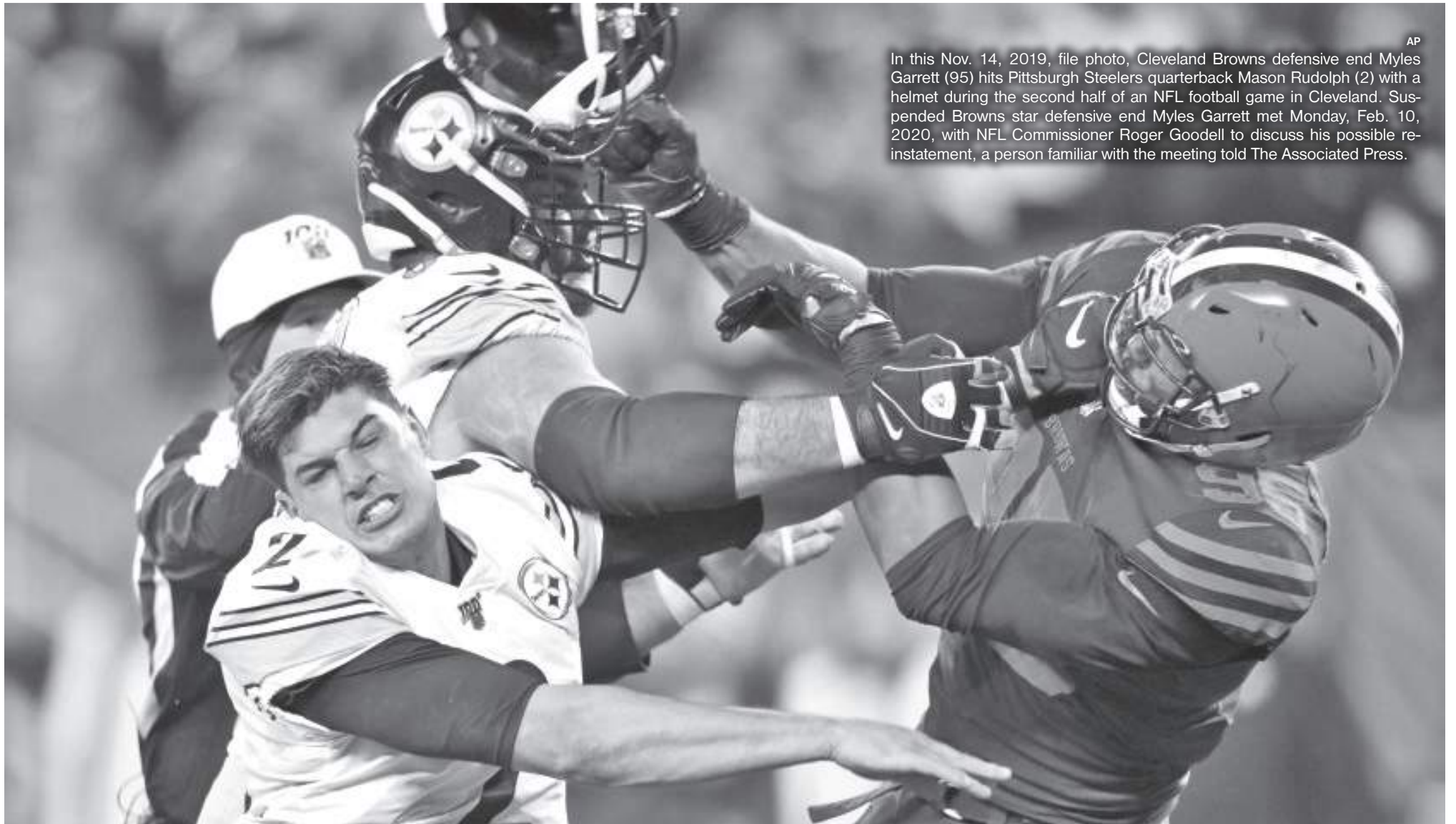
If he makes it, Boston crowds could be cheering for a player named Jeter.

“I’m sure he’ll hear a lot about that,” Red Sox manager Ron Roenicke said.

And, if that’s too difficult for the Fenway fans, they could always take a tip from Jerry Downs Sr., who’s been doing it for 21 years.

“My dad was actually a Red Sox fan,” he said. “So he’s so happy that both of us are here now.”

Browns' Garrett reinstated by NFL from indefinite suspension



AP
In this Nov. 14, 2019, file photo, Cleveland Browns defensive end Myles Garrett (95) hits Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mason Rudolph (2) with a helmet during the second half of an NFL football game in Cleveland. Suspended Browns star defensive end Myles Garrett met Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to discuss his possible reinstatement, a person familiar with the meeting told The Associated Press.



CLEVELAND (AP)—Myles Garrett is allowed to play and chase quarterbacks again after the NFL reinstated the Browns' star defensive end from his indefinite suspension for a vicious attack on Pittsburgh QB Mason Rudolph last season.

The league lifted its ban Wednesday on Garrett, who ripped off Rudolph's helmet and smashed him over the head with it during a Nov. 14 game on national television. Garrett missed Cleveland's final six games and his loss was a major

blow to the Browns, who went 2-4 without him, finished 6-10, fired coach Freddie Kitchens and saw general manager John Dorsey resign.

On Monday, Garrett met with Commissioner Roger Goodell and other league officials in the final step before he was cleared to return. He can participate in all of the Browns' offseason activities and that's a big relief as the team is undergoing another new start under coach Kevin Stefanski.

Garrett is cleared to return to all activities with the Browns. "We welcome Myles back

to our organization with open arms," Browns vice president of football operations and GM Andrew Berry said. "We know he is grateful to be reinstated, eager to put the past behind him and continue to evolve and grow as a leader. We look forward to having his strong positive presence back as a teammate, player and person in our community."

Garrett did not release a statement, but he posted a meme on his Twitter account of a scene from the film "John Wick" with the subtitle: "But now yeah, I'M THINKING I'M BACK!!!"

Browns quarterback Baker Mayfield offered his support, tweeting: "welcome back big fella!!!"

As the Browns were wrapping up a rare win over the Steelers in a Thursday night matchup, Garrett, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2017, pulled down Rudolph after a pass attempt and the two wrestled on the ground. Rudolph tried to pull off Garrett's helmet but couldn't. Garrett ripped off Rudolph's helmet and swung and struck him with it, triggering a brawl between the teams.

Garrett paid dearly for

his misstep. He was fined \$45,623 and lost \$1.14 million in game checks. His reputation also took a shot and he'll have to watch his behavior going forward as another violent incident could result in even harsher discipline by the league.

Garrett's suspension is the longest for a single behavior in league history. Tennessee's Albert Haynesworth was suspended five games for stomping on a player's helmet-less head in 2006.

Garrett appealed his ban and Garrett told independent officer James Thrash during

his hearing that Rudolph had used a slur during their skirmish. However, Thrash upheld the decision and Garrett was done for the season. The league also suspended Steelers guard Maurkice Pouncey for three games (the penalty was later reduced to two) for punching and kicking Garrett, and Browns defensive lineman Larry Ogunjobi was suspended one game.

Garrett was having a strong third season as a pro, but he was flagged for some unnecessary roughness penalties early in the season. He finished with 10 sacks in 10 games.

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—Sean McVay still isn't saying why he fired defensive coordinator Wade Phillips after their third straight winning season with the Los Angeles Rams.

McVay introduced new defensive coordinator Brandon Staley at the Rams' training complex Wednesday, nearly a month after Staley was hired to replace Phillips. The Rams (9-7) finished 13th in the NFL in total defense last season with a unit that over-performed that ranking in many analytical statistics, but Phillips was still dismissed along with a handful of other assistants.

When asked directly, McVay said there "really wasn't anything in particular" behind his decision to replace a 42-year NFL veteran one year removed from a Super Bowl appearance with a 37-year-old with three years of NFL experience,

McVay mum on reasons for Rams' defensive coordinator change

all as an outside linebackers coach.

"Very excited about what Brandon will add," McVay said. "His ability to work in unison with our coaching staff that's currently in place, you look at the foundation that Wade was instrumental in establishing, (and) I think Brandon has done a great job. I've really enjoyed sitting in on some of these meetings and watching the collaboration of Brandon's leadership with the coaches that we've had in place."

The Rams also introduced new offensive coordinator Kevin O'Connell and special teams coordinator John Bonamego. O'Connell, who also will coach the Rams' quarterbacks, is McVay's first offensive coordinator since his rookie season in 2017, when

current Green Bay coach Matt LaFleur had the title.

Staley is taking a major step up in his career after his brief stints on Vic Fangio's staffs in Chicago and Denver. Just over three years after Staley was the defensive coordinator at Division III school John Carroll, he has taken charge of an NFL defense boasting superstars Aaron Donald and Jalen Ramsey.

"Sean is just a guy that I've held in such high regard for so many years," Staley said. "As a defensive coach, you're always trying to stay ahead. You're always trying to anticipate where the NFL is going. (Los Angeles) was always an offense that you always had to be aware of, a team that you always had to be aware of."

Staley expects to keep Phillips' basic 3-4 defensive

structure with the Rams next season. Los Angeles could have major turnover at several key defensive positions, with free agency looming for leading tackler Cory Littleton, pass rusher Dante Fowler and longtime defensive lineman Michael Brockers.

Staley's inexperience clearly was no concern for the 34-year-old McVay, who had five years of NFL experience when he became Washington's offensive coordinator at 27 years old. He took over the Rams shortly before he turned 31 — in a package deal with the experienced Phillips as his defensive coordinator.

"When you talk football (with Staley), I'd like to think that I love football as much as anybody, (but) you're sitting there and

you're thinking, 'This guy might be sicker than I am,'" McVay said with a laugh.

McVay plans to continue calling the Rams' plays himself, but he is eager to turn over some responsibilities to O'Connell, a former journeyman NFL quarterback who joined Jay Gruden's staff with the Redskins shortly after McVay left it in 2017. McVay's offense has finished in the NFL's top 10 in yards per game in each of his three seasons with the Rams.

O'Connell was Washington's offensive coordinator, passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach at different points in his three seasons.

"The experience and the success that this offense has had, you really want the players to look at you as an ex-

tension of the head coach," O'Connell said. "You want them to respect you the same way that they respect a head coach that obviously has developed a culture and put together a program here where people want to be a part of it. I was no different. This is a place that when this opportunity came about, you can't get here fast enough."

Bonamego replaces respected special teams coordinator John Fassel, who left the Rams for the Dallas Cowboys.

The Rams also hired Thomas Brown as their running backs coach, replacing veteran Skip Peete. Brown, a former NFL running back who has coached only in college, played against McVay during their high school careers.

Brown also played at Georgia, the alma mater of Rams running back Todd Gurley.

Antetokounmpo sits again as Bucks lose to Pacers



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—T.J. Warren scored 35 points and Malcolm Brogdon added 17 points and tied a career high with 13 assists, helping the Indiana Pacers hold on for a 118-111 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Wednesday night in Indianapolis.

The victory sent Indiana into the All-Star break with some momentum after beating the league's best team to end a season-worst seven-game losing streak. The Pacers also had lost five straight home games.

Donte DiVincenzo led the Bucks with 19 points and Khriston Middleton added 17 as reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo missed his second straight game following the birth of his first child. Milwaukee's five-game winning streak also ended.

The Bucks trailed by as much as 25 in the first half and were still down, 73-52, midway through the third.

Then they went on a 16-5 run to get within 11 at 82-71 after three quarters, opened the fourth with six straight points and cut the deficit to 90-86 on Eric Bledsoe's layup with 8:18 to play.

But Jeremy Lamb and Warren made consecutive 3s to spur the decisive run that allowed the Pacers to rebuild a 100-86 lead.

Magic 116, Pistons 112, OT

In Orlando, Fla., Aaron Gordon scored 25 points and Markelle Fultz added 21 as Orlando rallied to beat Detroit in overtime.

Gordon, who also had nine rebounds and nine assists, hit consecutive 3-point shots late in the fourth quarter to help Orlando erase a seven-point deficit.

Cavaliers 127, Hawks 105

In Cleveland, Tristan Thompson



son scored 27 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, Larry Nance Jr. had a career-high 23 points, and Cleveland broke a 12-game home losing streak, defeating Atlanta.

Cleveland, coming off the worst home loss in franchise history, went ahead midway through the first quarter and won at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse for the first time since beating the Hawks on Dec. 23.

Nets 101, Raptors 91

In New York, Toronto had its franchise-record winning streak stopped at 15 games with a loss to Brooklyn.

Caris LeVert scored 20 points for the Nets, who ended a six-game losing streak against the Raptors. That included a loss Saturday in Toronto, where LeVert scored a

career-best 37 points.

Wizards 114, Knicks 96

In New York, Bradley Beal scored 30 points and Washington used a fourth-quarter surge to beat New York.

Davis Bertans added 16 points, Isaac Bonga had 13 and Troy Brown Jr. scored 11 as Washington closed out the victory with a 34-19 run.

Grizzlies 111, Trail Blazers 104

In Memphis, Tenn., Brandon Clarke matched his career high with 27 points, Ja Morant had 20 points and nine assists and Memphis went into the All-Star break with a victory over Portland.

De'Anthony Melton and Jonas Valanciunas scored 12 points each, with Valanciunas

Indiana Pacers forward Domantas Sabonis, right, is fouled by Milwaukee Bucks center Brook Lopez during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020.

also grabbing 18 rebounds. Clarke connected on 12 of 14 shots as Memphis won for the 15th time in 19 games.

Hornets 115, Timberwolves 108

In Minneapolis, Devonte Graham scored 28 points, Miles Bridges added 20 and Bismack Biyombo had a double-double, and Charlotte used a big second half to rally past Minnesota.

Mavericks 130, Kings 111

In Dallas, Luka Doncic had 33 points and 12 rebounds in his return from a seven-game absence because of a sprained ankle, leading Dallas over Sacramento.

Doncic added eight assists in the NBA triple-double leader's final game before the break.

Kristaps Porzingis had 27 points and 13 rebounds with his fellow Euro star back after the 7-foot-3 Latvian recorded a career-best three consecutive games with at least 30 points and 10 rebounds while his Slovenian teammate was sidelined.

Buddy Hield scored 22 points and De'Aaron Fox added 16 for the Kings, who fell behind for good in the second quarter and were never closer than 11 points in the second half.

Jazz 116, Heat 101

In Utah, Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points and Bojan Bogdanovic added 22 to lift Utah over Miami. Jordan Clarkson added 21 points off the bench for the Jazz. Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 20 rebounds as Utah won its

fourth straight game.

Jimmy Butler scored 25 points to lead the Heat. Duncan Robinson added 18 points and Jae Crowder chipped in 15 off the bench.

Suns 112, Warriors 106

In Phoenix, Devin Booker scored 27 points, Kelly Oubre Jr. added 15 and Phoenix held on for a victory over Golden State.

Phoenix won for just the second time in eight games and goes into the All-Star break with a 22-33 record. The Suns have already surpassed last season's total of 19 wins.

Andrew Wiggins led Golden State with 27 points on 9-of-14 shooting. The Warriors have lost four straight and head into the break 12-43, the worst mark in the NBA.

TAGAMAN

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view from their hotel room at Grandvrio (called Hafadai Beach Hotel for the most part of his 31 years visiting Saipan), its turquoise waters, and the overall natural beauty of the island they have come to know as paradise.

Back then, Kobayashi, recounted, Saipan was teeming with Japanese tourists. Unlike the past several years where Chinese and Korean visitor arrivals arrive by the planeload.

Kobayashi and his wife, 82-year-old Harumi, developed such a strong bond with the island that their grandson, Minoru, had his wedding here back in 2005.

In this particular trip to Saipan, the Kobayashis brought their 55-year-old daughter, Masae Masuda, and their 23-year-old granddaughter, Tomomi Masuda.

This is also not Masae's first time on Saipan, as she counts coming to the Katori Jinja Shrine at the Sugar King Park

Lakers 120, Nuggets 116, OT

In Denver, LeBron James wasn't about to coast into the All-Star break, and neither was Anthony Davis.

"I could tell they were locked in pregame. LeBron had his jersey with like 80 minutes to go before the game," guard Alex Caruso said after the Lakers' overtime triumph in Denver on Wednesday night.

James posted his 12th triple-double of the season, tied with Luka Doncic for the NBA lead, and Davis scored seven of his 33 points in overtime as the Western Conference leaders took a 41-12 record and a four-game lead over second-place Denver into the All-Star break.

So, James, who had 32 points, 14 assists and 12 rebounds, saw this as playoff prep.

as one of her fondest memories visiting the island. She also said she remembers Minoru and Tomomi playing on Saipan's white sandy beaches like it was yesterday.

For Tomomi, she's been coming to Saipan with her grandparents, her mother, and her brother since she was 6 years old and that she always enjoys the tour of Marpi, especially going to the Last Command Post, Banzai Cliff, and Suicide Cliff.

A teary eyed Satoshi said he will also not forget the friends he has nurtured on Saipan all these years. One such friend is Susan Gaspar.

Satoshi said he and his family have known Gaspar the past 31 years and treat her like family. For her part, the Grandvrio dining supervisor said she loves the Kobayashi family with all her heart and always looks forward to their frequent visits to the island.

The Kobayashis and the Masudas, who will fly out to Japan this morning, hope to rekindle their fondness of the island when they return.

SAIPAN

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of the novel coronavirus that originated from Wuhan, China.

Due to the directive from the Chinese government, Sichuan Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Beijing Capital Airlines, and Hong Kong Express have all ceased flights to the islands.

Iakopo said with the CNMI not reporting any cases of coronavirus, she hopes that runners from other countries like Japan and Korea would register for the Saipan Marathon 2020.

"We are sharing that the Marianas is still a safe, coronavirus-free destination."

A week after the Saipan Marathon 2020, the MVA will also stage the 2020 Tagaman Triathlon and it appears partic-

ipation in the longest running sporting event in the western Pacific have also been affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

Triathlon Association of the CNMI secretary general Ricky Castro confirms that such is the case in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

"We have zero participants from China or Hong Kong," he said.

So far, Castro said fortunately there have been no pull-out of triathletes from Japan and Korea.

"Korea and Japan [triathletes] are still OK... I'm not sure in the coming weeks though."

It would indeed be a pity if the Saipan Marathon 2020 would be marred by pullouts, as this year's edition of the event was gearing up to be one

of its finest with the addition of a 5K course.

Before the coronavirus outbreak erupted in China, a large contingent of casual runners were said to be flying to Saipan and take part in the 5K.

According to a release from MVA, the Saipan Marathon 2020 is certified by the International Association of Athletic Federations through the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races. Registration for the event is now available via webscorer.com, with separate sites for International (<https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=196894>) and US/CNMI Residents (<https://www.webscorer.com/register?raceid=197420>), as applicable.

The race will start and finish

at American Memorial Park, starting at 4:30am for the full marathon, at 5:30am for the half marathon, at 5:45am for the 10K, and at 6am for the 5K. The cut-off time for the full marathon will be 8:30am at the half-way point. There is no cut-off time for the half marathon, 10K, or 5K.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on March 13, 2020, at American Memorial Park. Pickup times are 3-4pm for team/groups/tour groups/etc. and 4-6pm for individuals only.

For more information about the Saipan Marathon 2020, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects Specialist Ed Diaz at 664-3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.com.

MANIBUSAN

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net comprised of an 80 on the first round and a 72 on the second. The 12-handicap Teack shot a 44 in the front nine before improving with a 40 on the last nine holes.

Frank Castro (153), October ace Manny Alvarez (153), August ace Alex Tudela (155), round 1 runner-up and February ace Steve Balakrishna (155), and December ace Das Krishnan (155) make up the Top 7 of SGA's two-day Ace of Aces Tournament.

Others who qualified for SGA's season-ending tournament of monthly champions were Larry Deleon Guerrero (January), Joe Sablan (March), John "Nanni" Cruz

(April), Rick Kautz (June), Juan Lizama (July), Juan L. Babauta (September), and Nick Sablan (November).

In the SGA Monthly Ace Tournament that coincided with Day 2 of the Ace of Aces, Manibusan was hailed the February winner with his aforementioned net 69. Teack was second with his net 72, while Alvarez was third with his net 73 (gross 85, 45-40).

In the longest drive of the February ace, Krishnan out-distanced everyone in hole No. 2, while Frances Sablan was without peer in hole No. 11.

Alvarez and Juan "Pan" Guerrero were the closest to the pin in holes No. 6 and 8, respectively, while Alvarez's shots were on point in holes No. 12 and 15.

AFC donates soccer balls to local clubs

By MARK RABAGO

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Asian Football Confederation donated 500 soccer balls to local clubs under the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association. The equipment were turned over to nine clubs last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta said they prepared soccer balls for all nine active clubs—MP United, Kanoa FC, Paire FC, Shirley's FC, Tan Holdings FC, Matansa FC, Southern United FC, Fiesta Soccer Club, and Tinian Premier FC.

Jerry Tan, NMIFA president, thanked the Asian Football Confederation for the donation of soccer balls and said it will go a long way in further developing the sport in the islands.

"We received this annual grant for soccer balls so we decided to share a part of these



soccer balls we got from AFC to all the clubs. They really need the soccer balls for their club training. Some of the soccer balls will also be shared with the Public School System for the school leagues. A soccer ball is an important tool for training," he said.

Tan added that the donation of soccer balls is just AFC and NMIFA's way of saying a "big thank you" to local clubs for propagating the sport of soccer in the CNMI.

"We appreciate the clubs for what they've been doing in developing and recruiting players. This is just a small

way of expressing our appreciation to the clubs."

Zapanta said NMIFA receives the soccer balls from AFC and then redistributes them to local clubs that need them the most.

"What Jerry wants to do now is to help the clubs by supporting them by providing the soccer balls and some other equipment. Right now we've been receiving like 500 soccer balls a year from AFC so we're reallocating them to the clubs and the national teams," he said.

He said local soccer teams' needs vary from one another

with the CNMI national teams always having the biggest needs.

"It depends because sometimes the national teams use a lot of soccer balls. One national team would require about 20-40 soccer balls. We have four teams—men, women, boys, and girls...and after three months they have to change those soccer balls," he said.

Zapanta said NMIFA gave 25 soccer balls per club last Fall, but this year clubs that only have three teams will only get 10 soccer balls, while those that have six teams will get 20 soccer balls each.

Kanoa FC president Merlie Tolentino said the donation of soccer balls are very much appreciated by their club.

"We are very grateful to AFC and NMIFA for providing soccer balls to Kanoa FC. Thanks to this donation our players will have quality soccer balls for their training. [This is a] huge support for clubs for the development of our players' skills."

MP United technical director Norman Del Rosario echoed Tolentino's appreciation to AFC and NMIFA.

"In behalf of MP United

MARK RABAGO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, seventh from left, poses with local club representatives after turning over the soccer balls donated by the Asian Football Confederation last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

FC we deeply appreciated the ball donation. The more soccer balls around the more feet playing with it. It will definitely help the clubs in [the] development of [their] players."

Tan Holding FC president Glicerio Arago said their club couldn't have enough soccer balls and that he's very appreciative of the donation from AFC and NMIFA.

"This donation of soccer balls really help in the development of the sport of soccer here on Saipan. We are happy and appreciative of this donation from AFC and NMIFA considering we—like all football clubs on island—are a non-profit organization," he said.

AFC is the governing body of association football in Asia and Australia. It has 47 member countries, mostly located on the Asian and Australian continent, including the U.S. territories of the CNMI and Guam in the western Pacific.

Sprint Triathlon set for Feb. 29



The Triathlon Association of the CNMI will hold its 2020 Sprint Triathlon on Feb. 29 starting from the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in San Jose.

The event will both have individual and mixed relay categories. It will have the 750m swim split in the waters off Kilili Beach, the 35km bike course from Kilili Beach, going to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, to the Hyatt Regency Saipan, and back to Kilili Beach, and the 5km run along the Gov. Froilan Tenorio Beach Pathway.

It will have a go time of 6:15am with a bikers cut-off time of 7:50am. The 2020 Sprint Triathlon will have free online registration that closes on Feb. 27 with late registration fee on race day at \$20.

TRAC's 2020 Sprint Triathlon is the third leg of its series leading up to the 2020 Tagaman Triathlon. The first was their Duathlon event held last Dec. 21 in Paupau Beach, while the second was the 5th Aquathlon & 10KM Run held last January.

The 2020 Sprint Triathlon is sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Kanoa Resort. For more information, email swimbikerun.saipan@gmail.com. (Mark Rabago)

TJ5K Bubble Color Run/Walk on March 7



Mark your calendars for the happiest, most colorful, and foamiest run on Saipan—the Triple J Saipan 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk set for March 7.

Proceeds from the 2nd Annual TJ5K 2020 Bubble Color Run/Walk will go to the event's two beneficiaries, the Make-A-Wish® Foundation, aiding them in their mission to grant wishes to children with life-threatening diseases; and the Commonwealth Cancer Association as they continue in their mission to promote cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the CNMI and the region.

Early bird registration opens on Monday, Feb. 17, to March 6 until 4pm for a rate of \$10 per registrant. Locations for registration are: Surf Rider Resort Hotel in Chalan Kanoa, Payless SuperFresh & Truckload Store in the Townhouse Center, Triple J Motors on Beach Road, and Hertz Rental in Garapan next to Tony Roma's. For more details, follow Triple J affiliates (Triple J Motors, Great Harvest Bread



Co. Saipan, Surf Club Restaurant, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Saipan, Capricciosa, and Tony Roma's) on social media for the most up-to-date information, general event facts, and a chance to win a free entry for you and a friend. Triple J will give away a few free bibs for runners to join the foamiest color run on Saipan so follow us on Facebook and Instagram for contest details.

Not much of an early bird? No problem! Runners can also

register event morning for a \$15 fee. Each registered runner will receive a custom event T-shirt and the opportunity to get "colored" during the race, a race bib to track individual start-to-finish time, and a raffle entry for thousands of dollars' worth prizes. But that's not all CNMI. If you arrive early, we will host a Zumba warm-up class to get all runners loose for the 6am start time!

After the TJ5K 2020 Bubble Color Run/Walk Triple J

invites all participants to jump in or run straight into the famous TJ5K foam pit, safe for all ages—a signature event activity of all Triple J Bubble Color Run/Walk events. What is a foam pit? Join the TJ5K 2020 Bubble Color Run/Walk and experience it for yourself.

Want more? The Triple Saipan restaurant group will also be on site to provide fantastic sweet and savory options for a light and healthy breakfast as DJ Rico of Soundhire Saipan

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two participants of Triple J Saipan 5K Bubble Color Run/Walk are all smiles after being "colored" during last year's event. This year's edition of the fun run will be held on March 7.

keeps the grounds lit. Thanks to our business partners, an endless supply of refreshments from Pacific Trading Co. featuring Gatorade, Frappuccino, and much will be offered to keep everyone hydrated and alert as a live emcee raffles off thousands of dollars' worth in prize packages and giveaways. Don't miss out on Saipan's foamiest community event!

Triple J Saipan, Inc. would like to extend sincere gratitude to the Coastal Resources Management/Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services for each entity's partnership to ensure safety of public and event participants as well as Triathlon Association of the CNMI for their support with accurate route measurements and recording precise times of all 1,000+ anticipated participants. (PR)

Angels' Stassi
apologizes
for Astros'
sign-stealing
scheme

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Browns' Garrett
reinstated by NFL
from indefinite
suspension

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Manibusan is SGA Ace of Aces

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Might as well change Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan's acronym from AG to GA, as in golfing ace.



This, after the former Superior Court presiding judge won the Saipan Golfers Association's 2019 Ace of Aces Tournament last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Like the first round last Feb. 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Manibusan judged pretty well the green and fairways of the Talafofo golf course en route to shooting a gross score of four-over par 76. His score minus his 7 handicap gave



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan proudly raises the 2019 Ace of Aces Tournament championship trophy after winning the season-ending competition last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant of last year's Saipan Marathon gestures the victory sign while running along the Gov. Froilan Tenorio Beach Pathway.

DESPITE PULLOUT OF RUNNERS Saipan Marathon to push through

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Organizers behind the Saipan Marathon 2020 are unperturbed by a pull-out of runners for the March 14 event with Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo assuring that the tourism body's signature event will push through as planned.

"Due to the outbreak of

coronavirus, runners have pulled out. However, we are still moving forward with the Saipan Marathon as we have a good number of runners participating," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Several reports allude to a pullout of runners from China following the suspension of flights from the country in an effort to curb the spread

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Manibusan the lowest score of the day at net 69.

Manibusan, who won last year's May ace, actually started off slow with a four-over par 40 in the first nine holes last Sunday. He, however, more than made up for that in

the last nine holes, as he tamed the course with a par 36.

Coupled with the net 73 he shot in the first round, the CNMI's first elected attorney general wound up with a two-round total of 142, good enough to raise the 2019 Ace

of Aces Tournament championship trophy.

Ten strokes behind Manibusan and in second place was Tony Deleon Guerrero. His 152 total was built around a 78 net on the first round and a 74 net on the second.

Coming in third is veteran golfer Jung Eun Teack. He actually finished in a tie with Deleon Guerrero but lost via scorecard tiebreak. His 152

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Tagaman 'veteran' relishes latest trip to Saipan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Satoshi Kobayashi first came to Saipan in 1989 to represent his company that was a sponsor in the Tagaman Triathlon.

That first visit kicked off a 31-year love affair with the island, one that has made the Kyoto native and his family take as much as four vacations in a year on Saipan.

Through Grandvrio Resort Saipan assistant F&B manager Shuji Kuroda, who served as interpreter, Kobayashi narrated how he first came to Saipan as an area manager for a large Japanese chain of restaurants.

He remembers both meeting then Marianas Visitors Bureau managing director Jesus Manuel "J.M." V. Deleon Guerrero and CNMI sports hall of famer

Wilhelm "Bill" Sakovich, the two prime movers of the Tagaman along with Wolf Mojica.

Kobayashi said back then Saipan was a quaint little is-

land with nary a traffic light in contrast to today where traffic lights are as ubiquitous as the myriad of vehicles that now cause traffic along Beach Road.

But one thing that hasn't changed for him and his family is Saipan's postcard perfect sunsets that they can readily

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Satoshi Kobayashi, Masae Masuda, Grandvrio Resort dining supervisor Susan Gaspar (showing off her gift from the Kobayashis), Tomomi Masuda, and Hiromi Kobayashi at the Dolphin Restaurant atop the Grandvrio Resort in Garapan.